United Nations A/65/165

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 July 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Item 63 (a) of the provisional agenda*
New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

A monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 39 of the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/1 and reiterated in its resolution 64/258, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a comprehensive report on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" with a view to formulating a mechanism to review the full and timely implementation of all commitments related to Africa's development by the sixty-fifth session.

The report illustrates the rationale for such a monitoring mechanism from the perspectives of the African countries and their development partners to encourage the implementation of the commitments, promote partnership and mutual accountability, and enhance aid effectiveness.

After revisiting key concepts on monitoring commitments in the African context, the report reviews major monitoring mechanisms, highlighting objectives, thematic coverage, analytical approaches, participation modalities and gaps and challenges.

* A/65/150.

10-46238 (E) 130810

Please recycle

The report outlines the nature, scope, priorities and institutional arrangements for an improved monitoring mechanism that builds on existing processes aiming at making them more inclusive. Its value added is based on greater inclusiveness, leveraging on the political authority and legitimacy of the General Assembly and its universal membership. The improved mechanism involves formal periodic reviews, either under the aegis of the Assembly in the context of its agenda item on the New Partnership for Africa's Development or on a subsegment of the Development Cooperation Forum, which is held every other year under the purview of the Economic and Social Council, to be dedicated exclusively to issues on Africa. The mechanism entails additional functions for the Secretariat and consequently the need for incremental resources. Recommendations for consideration by the Assembly are set out in the last section of the report.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Rationale of a monitoring mechanism	5
	A. African perspectives	5
	B. Perspectives of the international community	7
	C. Improved support for monitoring development goals	8
III.	Some conceptual issues on monitoring	8
IV.	Review of existing monitoring mechanisms and processes	9
	A. Comprehensive mechanisms and processes	10
	B. Theme-specific mechanisms and processes	12
	C. Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals	12
	D. Strengths and limitations of existing monitoring arrangements: an assessment	13
V.	Scope of and institutional arrangements for an improved monitoring mechanism	15
	A. Scope of the improved monitoring mechanism	15
	B. Institutional arrangements for the review of the improved monitoring mechanism	17
VI.	Conclusions and recommendations	21
Annex		
	List of monitoring mechanisms	23

I. Introduction

1. The present report is prepared in compliance with paragraph 39 of the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/1, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a comprehensive report on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" with a view to formulating a mechanism to review the full and timely implementation of all commitments related to Africa's development by the sixty-fifth session. The political declaration was adopted at the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs, which was held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008 and was attended by Heads of State and Government. The Assembly reiterated that request in its resolution 64/258 entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

2. The present report builds on two previous reports of the Secretary-General each entitled "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" (A/63/130 and A/64/208). The reports emphasized that meeting Africa's development needs was within reach, provided that African States and external partners acted with determination to turn existing commitments into concrete actions. The present report makes the case for and further develops the concept of an improved monitoring mechanism.

3. On various occasions, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General have stressed the need for bolder steps to strengthen the global partnership for development in Africa, calling for improved monitoring and stronger efforts for mutual accountability. The time is therefore ripe to propose, pursuant to the request of the Assembly, an improved monitoring mechanism of the commitments to Africa's development at the United Nations system-wide level.

4. The improved mechanism builds on existing processes. Its value added will come primarily from leveraging the political authority and legitimacy of the General Assembly and its universal membership to encompass contributions and results from existing monitoring arrangements and make them more inclusive, especially regarding the increasingly important role of other development partners in Africa. The mechanism will also generate momentum and increase the credibility of existing monitoring mechanisms. The proposed mechanism complements the work of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group, which strives to mobilize international support for the achievement of the Goals in Africa.

5. Setting up the improved mechanism will involve additional functions for the Secretariat, in particular the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, such as compiling and synthesizing the results and outputs from existing monitoring frameworks, undertaking further analytical work as required and organizing meetings of experts and other stakeholders in preparing for General Assembly meetings. Additional financial and human resources will be required to fulfil the above tasks.

6. The present report has greatly benefited from comments and suggestions provided by Member States, the Commission of the African Union, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),[1]

[1] As part of the process to integrate NEPAD into African Union structures and processes, the NEPAD secretariat was recently transformed into the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency.

the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Inter-Agency/Departmental Task Force on Africa, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector.

II. Rationale of a monitoring mechanism

7. Major international events in the earlier part of the current decade have helped to shape a new approach to development partnership and accountability. The adoption of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000 was followed by major international conferences on financing for development (Monterrey, Mexico, 2002), sustainable development (Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002) and multilateral trade liberalization (Doha, Qatar, 2001), which enhanced understanding of the broad strategies and policies needed to attain the Goals. Concomitantly, with the adoption of NEPAD, African leaders recognized that good governance was fundamental to long-term growth. The African Peer Review Mechanism was launched in 2002 to promote adherence to and fulfilment of this key commitment.

8. The Monterrey Consensus set out a new aid paradigm based on partnership and accountability: developing countries would commit to sound policies and good governance while developed countries would commit to increase their financial support. Improving aid effectiveness has therefore become a central goal. Following the 2003 Rome Declaration on Harmonization and the 2004 joint Marrakech memorandum on managing for development results, in 2005, more than 100 signatories endorsed the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which covers, at its core, the commitment to change the way development partners and recipient Governments do business together. The third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Accra in 2008 took stock of progress and built on the Paris and Rome Declarations to accelerate the pace of change and further enhance aid effectiveness.

9. As a result, the impact of these collective efforts on the lives of poor people is receiving increasing scrutiny. Delivery of aid and greater accountability in the use of development resources has received most of the attention. More broadly, the overall development dialogue has witnessed a shift from a concentration on inputs and immediate outputs to a focus on achieving outcomes and long-term impacts. Monitoring has also gradually shifted from documenting delivery of commitments to a broader evaluation of the impact of development programmes. Monitoring commitments by Africa and its development partners has helped create and reinforce channels of communication and dialogue leading to improvements in development practices and adjustments in policies and actions where required.

A. African perspectives

10. Although monitoring as currently practised largely focuses on reporting and documenting achievements and failures and does not per se trigger new actions or new implementation efforts, it is still instrumental to fostering the implementation of the various commitments towards Africa's development. Not only is Africa lagging behind other developing regions in terms of the Millennium Development

Goals targets but most African countries also run a serious risk of missing several of them by the deadline of 2015. To make matters worse, the global financial and economic crisis has had a major impact on the fiscal situation of many African economies by either weakening the rate of progress or, in a few cases, even reversing progress already made. Renewed efforts are therefore necessary to promote delivery on existing commitments by Africa's development partners and stronger leadership by African Governments and consequently more rigorous monitoring of the implementation of those commitments and their impacts on development.

11. African States and institutions have often highlighted the fundamental nature of monitoring to the sustainable development of the region. Adopting the Abuja Commitment to Action in May 2006, African ministers of finance stated that monitoring commitments on the basis of mutual accountability was critical to ensuring that Africa stayed on track and achieved success. The NEPAD Framework also called for the establishment of complementary and independent monitoring tools to ensure that donor performance was kept on track and that official development assistance flows were effectively utilized by recipient countries.

12. Africa has more limited access to private capital flows from abroad than other regions, relying more on aid as a major source of external development finance. Combined with the weak human and institutional capacity prevailing in many African countries, delivery of external financial and technical support has a much greater influence on the pace of Africa's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, making it even more important to monitor the international support for Africa than for other developing regions.

13. Significant shortcomings are reported in the fulfilment of commitments by Africa's development partners, making a stronger case for renewed efforts by partner countries. For instance, while total official development assistance reached a record high of $122.3 billion in 2008, of which about $44 billion went to Africa, the Group of Eight commitment to double aid to Africa is still far from being reached. Depending on the years, Africa has received from 32 to 35 per cent of the global increase in official development assistance since 2004, significantly below the 50 per cent announced at the Group of Eight Summit held in Gleneagles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

14. Governance weaknesses are a major constraint to Africa's development. African Governments have highlighted the need to monitor issues of governance, transparency and the rule of law. Twenty-nine African States have joined the African Peer Review Mechanism, an instrument designed for peer- and self-monitoring at the national and continental levels on issues related to democracy and political, economic and corporate governance.

15. In the same vein, in 2002, the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee[2] requested ECA and OECD to undertake joint reviews of development effectiveness within a framework for mutual accountability between Africa and its development partners, giving rise to the Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness.

[2] The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee has been renamed the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee as part of the African Union/NEPAD integration outcomes.

16. Africa has made good progress on its commitments to promoting growth, investing in the health and education of its people, improving governance and mobilizing resources. There has been significant progress towards some of the Millennium Development Goals but overall progress has been uneven. Capacity shortages remain a key constraint in all areas. Moreover, the challenge of achieving sustainable development in Africa is inextricably linked to what happens in the wider global economy. While growth in most African economies appears to have rebounded in 2010, the trend towards fiscal consolidation in several OECD countries will likely affect external support to Africa and negatively impact its growth prospects in the medium term. And although it contributes least to global carbon emissions, Africa is expected to be profoundly affected by the consequences of climate change.

17. Besides its key role in mutual accountability, monitoring also contributes to advocacy, which, when performed by national stakeholders including non-governmental organizations, can help to strengthen domestic accountability. From the perspectives of African Governments, monitoring also contributes to evidence-based policymaking on the part of the authorities. The two additional benefits of monitoring, namely, advocacy/domestic accountability and evidence-based policymaking, are important factors of development.

B. Perspectives of the international community

18. Monitoring mechanisms are justified from the perspective of the international community to ensure the efficient use of resources in developing countries, facilitate the mobilization of public resources and keep the political momentum for development assistance in partner countries.

19. In donor countries, development assistance competes with other domestic priorities. An effective monitoring mechanism can help to demonstrate that aid is working and providing value for money. More generally, monitoring has shifted from a narrow "input-driven" focus on delivery of resources or capacity support to a broader objective targeting aid effectiveness, thus helping to reassure the public in donor countries that development assistance is yielding the expected results. The incorporation of results-based management throughout development assistance work is increasingly being adopted. This further strengthens the case for monitoring.

20. At the Group of Eight Summit held in L'Aquila, Italy, in 2009, leaders emphasized the importance of accountability for the effective use of international assistance and committed to accelerating implementation of aid effectiveness commitments, adopting a full and comprehensive mutual accountability mechanism by 2010, monitoring progress and strengthening the effectiveness of their actions with a strong focus on in-country implementation.

21. From the perspectives of partner agencies involved in designing the global aid architecture, monitoring is seen as an effective tool for holding their members accountable and for maintaining the political momentum in efforts towards achieving development goals in poor countries. The two monitoring surveys of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness have led to the recognition that in order for aid to become truly effective, stronger and more balanced, accountability mechanisms are required at both the country and international levels, where providers and recipients of aid can be held mutually accountable to each other.

22. Monitoring also provides critical inputs to advocacy, a role played by multilateral development agencies such as the United Nations, international financial institutions, regional development banks and non-governmental organizations. Notable examples are the Global Monitoring Report by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the Millennium Development Goals annual reports, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group.

C. Improved support for monitoring development goals

23. The focus of monitoring mechanisms on measurable development goals implies the need for more and better statistics to inform policy and monitor progress. However, the new demands placed on national statistical systems exceed the capacities of many countries. External support has helped, but often progress has not been sustained. At present, there are important gaps in data, especially with respect to access to basic social services and infrastructure services in developing countries and especially in Africa.

24. Notable initiatives in this area include, from the international perspective, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), created in 1999, and the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics agreed in 2004. From the African side, major efforts include the adoption of the African Charter on Statistics by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in 2009, the ECA-based African Center for Statistics, created under the initiative of the African ministers of finance, and, more recently, of AfricaInfo, established by the Commission of the African Union in collaboration with the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF) and designed to facilitate the development of statistics in Africa.

25. In the context of the response to the global economic crisis, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination has launched the establishment of a vulnerability monitoring and alert mechanism to respond to an identified gap in information pertaining to the effects of the current crisis on the world's most vulnerable populations.

III. Some conceptual issues on monitoring

26. The monitoring of commitments involves recording the fulfilment or non-fulfilment of Government and development partner commitments to support Africa's development. In the context of aid effectiveness and results-based management, monitoring has, however, taken a broader perspective involving mutual accountability, which binds countries and their development partners through shared objectives and mutual commitments. The Paris Declaration has further expanded this concept by linking mutual accountability to domestic accountability. Not only are developing country Governments and their development partners expected to be accountable to each other but they must also be accountable to their own constituencies. While commitments are generally not of a contractual nature, mutual accountability, further extended to domestic accountability, provides the basis for making a compelling case for delivering commitments by Governments

and their development partners and for more active participation by other stakeholders in monitoring the delivery of commitments.

27. The review or monitoring mechanism called for by the General Assembly reflects the resolve to encourage and indirectly exert pressure on Member States to follow up their commitments to Africa's development and does not contemplate any "enforcement" function. But since most commitments are "voluntary" and therefore not binding, monitoring and the concept of mutual accountability play a critical role in measuring progress in their implementation.

28. Conceptually, monitoring the delivery of commitments can be conceived in different ways. The narrowest perspective focuses on the disbursement of an amount of aid or the implementation of a specific action or measure. Because funding issues have captured most attention, there has been a greater focus on input indicators, sometimes at the expense of more meaningful concerns about outcomes and impacts. A second group of indicators of commitments focuses on processes (for example, the adoption or ratification of a law). The focus on results-based management and development effectiveness has led to more attention to output or outcome indicators but they are more difficult to assess.

29. In terms of partnership and the related concept of mutual accountability, monitoring in the context of Africa's development should not focus only on commitments made by development partners but also on promises and commitments by African Governments, which have primary responsibility in promoting economic and social progress. At the country level, some modest progress in monitoring the implementation of national development strategies has been reported through annual progress reports on poverty reduction strategies, other national policy review mechanisms and, for a few but growing number of countries, the use of country-based results-monitoring frameworks such as the performance assessment frameworks, which involve domestic stakeholders, such as parliamentarians and civil society organizations, and the Government.

IV. Review of existing monitoring mechanisms and processes

30. The international community, African Governments and other stakeholders have put in practice a wide range of different mechanisms to monitor commitments towards Africa's development. Established with different objectives, existing monitoring mechanisms vary greatly in terms of: (a) thematic coverage; (b) whether the focus is on inputs or more broadly on outcomes and impacts; (c) the extent of analysis and data; and (d) stakeholder participation. Section IV of the present report does not attempt to provide an exhaustive review of all existing monitoring mechanisms[3] but focuses on the ones that are generally acknowledged by the development community as the most effective and the ones that are relevant to Africa's development.

[3] For a more complete list of monitoring mechanisms, refer to the annex to the present report.

A. Comprehensive mechanisms and processes

31. The Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness is a report prepared jointly by ECA and OECD at the request of the Heads of State and Government of the NEPAD Implementation Committee in 2002 to monitor on a biennial basis the progress of efforts on both sides of the development partnership. Covering 15 sectors, the 2009 Review assembles commitments by Africa and the development partners according to sector, reviews what has been done by both sides to deliver their respective commitments, assesses the results by sector and identifies key future priority actions. Publication of the report was preceded by consultations with academic and research institutions and civil society. The previous report was published in January 2009. Publication of the next report has been brought forward slightly from the normal two-year cycle so that the review can serve as a background document for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, to be held in September 2010.

32. The Africa Peer Review Mechanism, whose mandate is to encourage conformity in regard to political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards among African countries, is perhaps one of the most comprehensive of the existing monitoring mechanisms, in part owing to its broad thematic coverage as well as the processes, procedures, policies and the multiple layers of validation purposely built into it. The Africa Peer Review Mechanism not only covers all the different areas of governance — political, economic, corporate and socio-economic governance — but also the processes and institutions that are required by the Mechanism in order to undertake a valid review. To date, 29 countries have formally joined the Mechanism, and 12 have been peer-reviewed.

33. The Africa Partnership Forum was established by the Group of Eight at the summit held in Evian, France, in 2003 to support an expanding senior policy dialogue between Africa and OECD countries together with the African Union, NEPAD, the European Commission (EC), IMF, OECD, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) and ECA. The Forum meets twice a year, during the second quarter of the year to set directions for the Group of Eight-Africa partnership as an input to the Group of Eight meeting, and in the fourth quarter of the year to monitor the delivery of Group of Eight commitments made in previous years covering different sectors each year. Despite the relative success of the Forum in playing the dual role of setting strategies and monitoring commitments, the fact that other development partners are still excluded from this senior-level Forum with Africa poses important challenges in terms of coverage.

34. Unlike the two previous monitoring mechanisms, which are specific to Africa, the annual Global Monitoring Report produced by the World Bank and IMF provides regular monitoring of progress on the policy agenda by key actors, namely, developing and developed countries and multilateral agencies, the priorities for action and the accountabilities of the key actors in achieving the Millennium Development Goals targets on a worldwide basis. Producing the report is a statistically rigorous exercise; despite the comprehensiveness of its analytical framework, however, the report does not track the progress of all the commitments. The report only provides partial information on Africa.

35. In an effort to bolster its accountability, the Group of Eight initiated its own monitoring process in 2007, starting with a report on health in 2007, expanding to food security, water, health and education in 2009. The first Group of Eight Accountability Report (also known as the Muskoka Accountability Report) gives an account of Group of Eight performance in implementing key development-related commitments, assesses the results of Group of Eight actions and identifies lessons learned for future reporting. The report is restricted to the review of Group of Eight commitments and does not assess the global progress towards meeting international development goals.

36. The European Union (EU) and the African Union have also developed mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership adopted in 2007 at the EU-Africa summit. There is, however, the need for EU and the African Union to link the strategy to other international high-level events.

37. Civil society organizations are also involved with monitoring. The DATA Report, which is produced by the advocacy organization (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa) and which subsequently merged with the United Kingdom-based grass-roots organization ONE, analyses, collectively and individually, the progress by the Group of Eight towards their commitments to Africa. This data-intensive and comprehensive exercise has the advantage of offering more detailed information on projected aid disbursements for the following year based on direct consultations with disbursing ministries in the Group of Eight countries. However, it focuses exclusively on commitments made by the Group of Eight countries and overlooks the ones made by other OECD-Development Assistance Committee partners and by non-Development Assistance Committee donors. By design, the DATA Report does not monitor commitments made by African countries.

38. Another monitoring exercise is conducted by the Africa Progress Panel, which was established in 2008; former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan is its current chair. Designed as a vehicle to monitor progress in Africa's development performance, the annual report of the Panel provides updates in the areas of economic growth, governance, education, health, peace and security, food and nutrition security, climate change and development finance. The report addresses broad relationships between performance and what can be loosely defined as actions that African Governments need to undertake in order to improve the continent's development performance.

39. African civil society organizations are also involved with monitoring. The African Monitor, a South African-based body established in 2006, primarily focuses on donor commitments made since 2005, as well as commitments by African Governments, in particular those made collectively under the African Union and regional groupings. Unlike the other monitoring reports, the Development Support Monitor, which was issued in 2007 and 2009, tracks and catalogues commitments by donors and African Governments from a grass-roots-focused, pan-African perspective. In terms of coverage, the report focuses only on key thematic areas, such as poverty, food security and agriculture, financing for development, regional integration and trade, education and health, leaving other commitments unattended.

B. Theme-specific mechanisms and processes

40. Governance is currently being monitored by some 30 different processes, with the most influential ones being the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, the ECA African Governance Report and the Worldwide Governance Indicators.[4] The Ibrahim Index is an instrument voluntarily acceded to by member States of the African Union as an African self-monitoring mechanism. It provides a comprehensive ranking of African countries on the basis of governance indicators regrouped in four main pillars: safety and rule of law, participation and human rights, sustainable economic opportunity and human development. The African Governance Report is a biennial publication that assesses and monitors progress towards good governance in 35 African countries. The World Bank's Governance Indicators covers six dimensions of governance: voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law and control of corruption.

41. Commitments on development aid and their delivery are tracked by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, which monitors on a yearly basis the volume, origin and types of aid and other resource flows to over 150 recipient countries, including all African countries. On aid effectiveness, OECD publishes, on an irregular basis, the Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration and compiles the Survey on Harmonization and Alignment. The data reported by the Development Assistance Committee are the most authoritative information on the issue of aid effectiveness.

42. The Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Economic Outlook, a report published biannually by IMF, is an important source of information and analysis on the economic and financial performance of sub-Saharan Africa. Although it does not measure performance against specific commitments, the report assesses key economic and financial indicators and is produced in conjunction with the IMF World Economic Outlook.

C. Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals

43. The Millennium Development Goals are the cornerstone of current development practice and embody vital commitments made by world leaders in 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit and reviewed at the 2005 World Summit. Their progress is regularly monitored by various agencies, with the annual assessment reports by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat being the most authoritative since they rely on a broad database collected by various international organizations within and outside the United Nations system. In addition, the World Bank annually publishes the World Development Indicators, a comprehensive statistical overview of development. Other publications cover the specific context of Africa, such as the annual Millennium Development Goals Africa regional report, jointly produced by the United Nations Development Programme

[4] Other mechanisms include: Corruption Perceptions Index and Bribe Payers Index (Transparency International), Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (World Bank), Failed States Index (Foreign Policy and Fund for Peace), Gender Empowerment Measure (UNDP), Political Freedom (Freedom House), Public Sector Efficiency and Performance (European Central Bank), Uppsala Conflict Database (Uppsala University), or the Urban Governance Index (UN-Habitat).

(UNDP), the African Union, ECA and AfDB. Sector-specific reports focus exclusively on specific goals. For instance, the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force, which was created by the Secretary-General and integrates more than 20 United Nations agencies, annually compiles a progress report on a global partnership for development (Goal 8), whereas the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS publishes an annual report on the global AIDS epidemic (Goal 6) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is responsible for the annual Education for All: Global Monitoring Report (Goal 2).

D. Strengths and limitations of existing monitoring arrangements: an assessment

44. The review shows that existing monitoring mechanisms or processes provide a rather extensive coverage of commitments made by African Governments and agencies and their development partners. Over time, as more information becomes available, the discernable trend is for monitoring to rely increasingly on quantitative analyses, although significant statistical gaps remain both in terms of coverage and timeliness. In addition, under the push for development policies and support to be more results-oriented, the monitoring of commitments has gradually moved from a narrow focus on inputs (for example, actions or policies) to efforts on measuring the outcomes and impacts and their relationship to the Millennium Development Goals, as well as on policies and/or actions taken to deliver on the commitments and the expected outcomes.

45. The review also highlights a number of limitations in existing monitoring arrangements (see table 1): (a) most mechanisms focus on a limited number of commitments; (b) inadequate coverage of other development partners that play an increasingly large role both in terms of volume and type of development support, particularly in Africa; (c) limited coverage of non-State agencies such as non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians and other groups whose role is particularly relevant for monitoring at the country level; and (d) inadequate involvement of African Governments and stakeholders in the mechanisms covered by the review. As indicated in section I above, this uneven participation may undermine both the ownership and legitimacy of many monitoring mechanisms.

Table 1
Strengths and limitations of existing multisectoral monitoring mechanisms

Monitoring mechanisms	*Strengths*	*Gaps and limitations*
Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness	• Provides good topical coverage (the 2010 Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness report includes 17 sectors) • Is based on the principle of partnership, focusing on commitments made by all sides	• Inadequate participation by the African side • Does not include non-Development Assistance Committee donors and other stakeholders • Lacks regularity: has not been published on a regular basis until recently

Monitoring mechanisms	*Strengths*	*Gaps and limitations*
	• Provides details on what has been done to deliver the commitments and what results have been achieved (by sector)	
	• Is based on extensive data and information	
African Peer Review Mechanism	• Provides broad thematic coverage on political, economic, corporate and social economic governance	• Has made limited progress in implementation of the national programme of action partly because of lack of resources
	• Offers a forum for exchange of best practices among countries participating in the African Peer Review Mechanism	
Africa Partnership Forum	• Has more legitimacy, with stronger African participation	• Provides partial coverage of the commitments
	• Has twin focuses: on setting strategic orientations and on monitoring	• Does not include non-Development Assistance Committee donors
Global Monitoring Report	• Has strong analytical framework and data	• Provides partial coverage of Africa
	• Monitoring includes roles and responsibilities of multilateral agencies	• Albeit very detailed, does not cover all commitments
Group of Eight Accountability Framework	• Sustained effort by the Group of Eight on improving delivery of commitments based on accountability	• Has low participation by recipient countries • Covers only Group of Eight commitments
Joint European Union-Africa Strategic Partnership	• Has a long-term policy framework based on political commitment at the highest level	• Covers only European Union-African Union commitments
DATA Report	• Provides very detailed information	• Covers only Group of Eight commitments
	• Helps to better understand Group of Eight commitments to Africa and their implications	

Monitoring mechanisms	*Strengths*	*Gaps and limitations*
Africa Progress Panel	• Provides comprehensive update of Africa's development performance	• Albeit comprehensive, does not cover all commitments • Has weak links between commitments by Africa and development performance
African Monitor	• Provides perspectives at the grass-roots level	• Provides partial coverage of commitments

V. Scope of and institutional arrangements for an improved monitoring mechanism

46. Building on the strengths and limitations of the existing monitoring mechanisms under review, an improved mechanism would have the following characteristics:

(a) Be based on the principles of partnership and mutual accountability, focusing not only on commitments by development partners but also on those made by African Governments;

(b) Cover a broad range of topics. Given the complexity of Africa's development requirements, an effective monitoring mechanism must by necessity be broad and cover all or most relevant sectors;

(c) Be grounded on reliable and timely data and, where data is available, assessments of outcomes and impacts instead of the more narrow focus on inputs;

(d) Promote the broad participation of all interested partners, including all interested African countries and a broad range of external partners, including non-Development Assistance Committee donors;

(e) Promote the participation of all relevant stakeholders including civil society, which is essential in terms of ownership, legitimacy and transparency;

(f) Promote a periodic review of accomplishments, through regular meetings and analytical reports, to oversee the implementation of commitments to Africa's development;

(g) Motivate and/or trigger actions by development partners and African Governments for better delivery of commitments and improve development effectiveness.

A. Scope of the improved monitoring mechanism

Thematic coverage

47. In order to be effective in terms of development results, the improved mechanism should monitor commitments on all or at least most of the areas identified as being critical to Africa's development in the 2008 political declaration on Africa's development needs, their implementation and impacts, including peace

and security; governance; resource mobilization and aid effectiveness; private sector development and access to finance; infrastructure; trade promotion and regional integration; environmental sustainability and climate change; food security and agricultural development; gender equality; health; education; and South-South cooperation.

Content of monitoring

48. Subject to the availability of information, the improved monitoring mechanism should strive to go beyond the monitoring of inputs, such as the disbursement of financial assistance or the implementation of a required policy by a country, to outputs and outcomes. It would promote a more systematic collection of relevant information including output and/or outcome indicators and stimulate a debate on development challenges that relate to those findings. Inputs from the Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness, the African Peer Review Mechanism and other African-based monitoring mechanisms would ensure that commitments by the international community and African countries receive equal scrutiny.

Methodological approach

49. The improved monitoring mechanism would not require the establishment of a new analytical system to monitor commitments to Africa's development but would build on existing arrangements, collecting information from current databases and using the convening power of the General Assembly for the participation of the most representative monitoring mechanisms at the review meetings. Besides emphasizing capacity-building and ownership through mutual accountability mechanisms between Africa and its development partners, the proposed mechanism would focus attention on the importance of domestic accountability relying on parliamentary oversight and other participatory practices to help shape the aid relationship as well as to enhance development results through transparency and accountability in terms of the use of all development resources, including domestic public resources.

Participation and political legitimacy

50. A basic characteristic of the improved monitoring mechanism is its capacity to include the participation of other relevant African stakeholders, such as the representatives of civil society organizations, academia and research institutions involved in monitoring Africa's development. Participation by such entities has been found to be either lacking or inadequate in existing monitoring mechanisms. The improved monitoring mechanism would involve two groups of Member States, African Governments and the external development partners, including non-Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee partners. The universality and legitimacy of the United Nations, where the review meeting on the mechanism is to be held, can be instrumental in helping to broaden the participation of all countries, while also opening a window for dialogue with non-State actors.

51. In addition to State and other public agencies, the participation of non-governmental organizations, both based in Africa and internationally, and other stakeholders such as parliamentarians in various monitoring exercises has become more frequent, in particular in cases where mutual accountability frameworks at the country level are active. As stated in the 2010 UNDP report entitled *Beyond the*

Midpoint: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals, civil society organizations are indispensable in monitoring practices since they demonstrate that development is fundamentally related to the achievement of greater political space and voice for those affected by poverty and exclusion. The participation of non-State representatives will need to be introduced in phases as the proposed mechanism matures and becomes increasingly more inclusive.

B. Institutional arrangements for the review of the improved monitoring mechanism

Choice of forum for the review

52. The present report considers several options regarding where the review should be held. These are set out in table 2, which shows the advantages and drawbacks of each of the various options. The four possible forums for holding the review are: (a) at the regular session of the General Assembly; (b) at a meeting under the purview of the Economic and Social Council; (c) at a special session of the General Assembly; and (d) at special reviews at the regional level involving the Commission of the African Union, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism, AfDB and ECA. The most appropriate options would be the regular session of the Assembly or a subsegment of the Development Cooperation Forum, which takes place every other year under the purview of the Council, and would be dedicated exclusively to Africa issues, appear to be the more appropriate options. Using the regular session of the Assembly as the forum not only responds to the clear mandate contained in resolutions 63/1 and 64/258 but also gives special political legitimacy to the process owing to the universality of its membership and its unique convening power. In this option, the review of the mechanism could be slotted under the agenda item entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support". Alternatively, the Development Cooperation Forum, which was established in 2005 by the Assembly in its resolution 60/1, in which the Assembly mandated the Council to convene a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum, is suitable for the review at a special segment of its session. The Development Cooperation Forum provides a platform for Member States to exchange experiences to support national development strategies, and while the Council has limited membership, the Development Cooperation Forum is open to participation by all relevant stakeholders and development partners.

Table 2
Alternative institutional arrangements for the review of commitments to Africa's development

Institutional arrangements	*Advantages*	*Constraints and drawbacks*
Regular session of the General Assembly	• Convening power of the United Nations • Universality of United Nations membership	• Limited visibility of the review because of the very broad agenda of the General Assembly

Institutional arrangements	*Advantages*	*Constraints and drawbacks*
	• Political legitimacy and mandate (General Assembly resolutions 63/1 and 64/258) • Analogous reviews undertaken by the Assembly at all levels, including at the level of Heads of State and Government	• Formal setting of Assembly arrangements and relative inflexibility in terms of the interaction with stakeholders other than Member States
Special meeting of the Economic and Social Council	• Convening power of the United Nations • Long-established focus on development issues • Experience in promoting new forms of dialogue on international development cooperation (for example, the Development Cooperation Forum) • Experience in establishing informal debates with non-State actors (for example, forums with non-governmental organizations, expert panels)	• Limited country membership (only 14 African countries are members) but the Development Cooperation Forum is open to the participation of all relevant stakeholders • Perception that the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council have lower status than the resolutions of the General Assembly
Special session of the General Assembly	• Same advantages as the regular session • More visibility of the review in a special session than in a regular session • More flexibility in special sessions than in regular sessions in interacting with stakeholders other than Member States	• Additional financial and organizational burdens for holding special sessions, compared with relying on established regular sessions • Difficulty in repeating review events with regular periodicity at special sessions

Institutional arrangements	*Advantages*	*Constraints and drawbacks*
Review at the regional level (African Union/ Economic Commission for Africa)	• Greater focus on African issues and perspectives • Broader participation by African Governments and regional and other institutions concerned with African development issues • Greater ownership by African countries	• Non-universality of the institutional arrangement and weaker convening power • Risk of perception of "reduced neutrality" compared with non-regional arrangements

Periodicity of the review

53. It is proposed that the review meetings to address the improved monitoring mechanism be held on a biennial basis. The experience of the United Nations as regards the periodicity of the review meetings for other mechanisms is diversified, ranging from the triennial (recently converted to quadrennial) comprehensive policy review for operational activities for development to the yearly meetings of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. Most international conferences, including the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, are held every five years. Given the nature of financial and non-financial commitments to support Africa's development efforts, a biennial review seems most appropriate since more frequent reviews would entail excessive costs and thus be unpractical. Given that the mechanism would rely on existing monitoring exercises, the biennial periodicity of the review would facilitate its harmonization with other mechanisms such as the Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness, which is updated on a two-year cycle.

Secretariat of the review

54. Various activities related to the organization of the review meetings would require adequate technical and logistical support. These activities would involve linkages with other organizations (including other development partners and representatives of existing monitoring mechanisms), the coordination, harmonization and interpretation of existing information on relevant commitments and their implementation, and the production of synthetic documentation and reporting for the review meetings. According to the request of the General Assembly in its resolutions 63/1 and 64/258, this support should not entail the establishment of any new institutions with the function of the secretariat of the review but would be covered by existing structures adequately strengthened. Even though the functions listed above can be entrusted to any entity within the Secretariat linked to the main constituency of the review, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa — in collaboration and consultation with other entities such as the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Commission of the African Union — is best placed to undertake the activities. Besides ensuring full ownership by Member States and especially by African countries involved in the process, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa is particularly suited to these functions in terms of expertise and familiarity with the issues.

Documentation required for the review

55. The review meetings would rely on documentation consisting of the following: (a) regular reports issued by the existing monitoring mechanisms; and (b) a specific report prepared by the review secretariat, which summarizes information from all existing sources on the fulfilment of commitments to Africa's development and their translation into concrete accomplishments.

Modalities of the review

56. The periodic review of commitments to Africa's development would have several manifestations, of which review meetings would be the most visible. To ensure the quality and legitimacy of the documentation for the review meetings, the preparation of the report, which would be submitted to either the General Assembly or the Development Cooperation Forum for review, would benefit from two rounds of consultations, first at the technical level, with specialists involved in monitoring and development, and later with a broad group of stakeholders through a participatory process. The comments and recommendations of the two consultative meetings would be included in the report to be submitted to the Assembly or the Development Cooperation Forum.

57. Three levels of meetings are envisaged. In chronological order, the technical level meeting would be the first meeting and would provide the opportunity for technical specialists representing selected existing monitoring mechanisms and specializing in African affairs to review and enrich the draft documentation produced by the review secretariat. Participation might include the Commission of the African Union, the African Monitor and selected representatives from civil society organizations based in Africa, AfDB, the United Nations system through the Inter-Agency Task Force on Africa, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and participants from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, UNDP, other United Nations system organizations as required, OECD, the World Bank, IMF, as well as selected international non-governmental organizations, including the United Kingdom-based ONE on the international community side. The involvement of regional institutions from Africa and selected African and international scholars is essential in order to give legitimacy to the entire process.

58. Following the technical review, the report to be submitted either to the General Assembly or the Development Cooperation Forum would further benefit from the participatory dialogue extended to representatives of African and international non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other stakeholders who play a central role in helping to enhance the overall credibility and quality of the proposed mechanism process.

59. Last, but most important, the meeting at the intergovernmental or political level would involve representatives of all Member States that Member States consider appropriate for the review in order to ensure the visibility, relevance and political legitimacy of the review. It would form the core of a formal session of the General Assembly or the special segment of the Development Cooperation Forum, to which representatives of the African Union would participate.

Financial implications

60. The proposal set out above is based on the principle of cost-effectiveness and relies on the information and analyses available from existing analytical sources. Additional tasks and duties in terms of organizing the review meetings, including the preparation of reports, entail additional human and technical resources. Adequate additional financial resources will need to be programmed in the budget of the United Nations for this purpose.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

61. The African continent is at a crossroads, given the intensity of its development needs and the additional impact of the global financial and economic crisis that has deteriorated the fiscal situation of many of its weak economies, hindering chances for significant progress. The present report recognizes the need for a renewed collective effort for a global partnership for Africa that is to build on strengthened mutual accountability and on more rigorous monitoring of commitments to achieve time-bound development objectives.

62. On the basis of the analysis contained in the present report and, in particular, the proposal set out in section V, the General Assembly may wish to consider:

(a) Establishing a review process, either under the aegis of the General Assembly or under the purview of the Economic and Social Council, as a subsegment of the Development Cooperation Forum fully dedicated to Africa, wherein commitments to Africa's development by both African Governments and their development partners and their implementation would be reviewed every two years at formal review meetings to be held either at the sessions of the Assembly, beginning with its sixty-eighth regular session, or at the Development Cooperation Forum, beginning with its session in 2014;

(b) Deciding that each review meeting would have the objective of assessing the extent to which commitments to promote Africa's development had been implemented and of generating consequent results in terms of achievements of development goals;

(c) That each review meeting proposed under subparagraph (a) above be organized in such a way as to include the following components: (i) a formal review at the intergovernmental level within the General Assembly or the special segment of the Development Cooperation Forum; (ii) a review of technical specialists involved with existing mechanisms that deal with monitoring the commitments to Africa's development and their implementation; and (iii) a dialogue among all other relevant stakeholders from Africa and within the international community who are interested in implementation of the commitments to Africa's development;

(d) Ensuring that, in organizing the various components of the review meetings, there is broad participation by major regional and subregional institutions, including the Commission of the African Union, AfDB, ECA, the African regional economic communities, other organizations of the United Nations system and institutions that manage key monitoring mechanisms relevant to Africa's development, and adequate representation by all development partners and national stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other sectors of civil society;

(e) Requesting the Secretary-General to submit either to the General Assembly or to the Development Cooperation Forum, prior to the organization of each review meeting, a report summarizing information on fulfilment of the commitments to Africa's development and their translation into concrete accomplishments, building on information available from existing monitoring mechanisms, analytical sources and available documentation;

(f) Requiring that, in order to fulfil the function to establish the above-mentioned review process, including the organization of the review meetings, the preparation of the related report and all additional documentation, interaction with existing monitoring mechanisms and the dissemination of information to a wider audience, appropriate human and financial resources be programmed in the budget of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and be made available to support that function.

Annex

List of monitoring mechanisms

Comprehensive monitoring mechanisms

Africa Partnership Forum

Global Monitoring Report (World Bank-International Monetary Fund (IMF))

Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa Report (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD))

Sector-specific monitoring mechanisms

Official development assistance flows and aid effectiveness

International Development Statistics (OECD)

Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration (OECD)

Governance and security

African Governance Report (ECA)

African Peer Review Mechanism

Afrobarometer

Cingranelli-Richards Human Rights Dataset

Commitment to Development Index (Center for Global Development)

Corruption Perceptions Index; or Bribe Payers Index (Transparency International)

Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (World Bank)

E-Governance Performance Index; global e-Government, or e-Government readiness reports (Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat)

Electoral Quotas for Women Database (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance)

Failed States Index (Foreign Policy and Fund for Peace)

Freedom of the Press Survey (Freedom House)

GAPS in Workers' Rights (International Labour Organization)

Gender Empowerment Measure (United Nations Development Programme)

Global Barometer Survey network (University of Strathclyde)

Global Integrity Index (Global Integrity)

Government at a Glance (OECD)

Human Rights Indicators (Danish Centre for Human Rights)

Ibrahim Index of African Governance

Political Constraint Index (University of Pennsylvania)

Political Freedom (Freedom House)

Political Terror Scale (Purdue University)

Public Integrity Index (Center for Public Integrity)

Public Sector Efficiency and Performance (European Central Bank)

Public Sector Value Model (Accenture)

State Failure Problem Set (University of Maryland)

Uppsala Conflict Database

Urban Governance Index (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)

Women in National Parliaments Statistical Archive (Inter-Parliamentary Union)

World Governance Assessment (United Nations University)

Worldwide Governance Indicators (World Bank)

Millennium Development Goals

Africa Millennium Development Goals progress reports

Development Cooperation Forum reports

Global Monitoring Report (World Bank, IMF)

Global Monitoring Report: Education for All (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Human Development Report

Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force Report

Millennium Development Goals Report

Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)

State of World Population (United Nations Population Fund)

Economic indicators

African Economic Outlook (OECD, African Development Bank and ECA)

Country risk ratings (Economist Intelligence Unit) or International Country Risk Guide (Political Risk Services Group)

Ease of Doing Business Index (World Bank)

Economic Report on Africa (ECA and African Union)

Global Development Finance (World Bank)

Global Economic Prospects (World Bank)

Global Employment Trends (ILO)

Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (London Business School)

Global Financial Stability Report (IMF)

Growth Competitiveness Index (World Economic Forum)

Index of Economic Freedom (Heritage Foundation and *Wall Street Journal*)

International Trade Statistics (WTO)

Opacity Index (Price Waterhouse Coopers)

The Business Environment and Enterprise Performance Survey (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank)

World Competitiveness Yearbook (Institute for Management Development)

World Development Report (World Bank)

World Economic Outlook; Regional Economic Outlook (IMF)

Civil society monitoring mechanisms

Africa Progress Panel, chaired by former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan

African Monitor, a non-governmental organization based in South Africa. Publishes the biennial *Development Support Monitor*

Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa (or DATA). Report by British non-governmental organization ONE. Annual report tracks progress on all dimensions of development (social, political and economic indicators)

United Nations A/65/166

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 July 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 66 (b)
Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (64/538)

Midterm assessment of the progress made in the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is a midterm assessment of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. On the basis of information received from organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and the United Nations Secretariat, it provides an analysis and good examples of the progress made towards the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Decade. It also includes summaries of the information received from 11 Member States, 19 United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, and 11 non-governmental and indigenous organizations. The report concludes that substantive advances have been made towards achievement of the goal and objectives of the Decade. The importance of the adoption, in 2007, of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the role it has had in the consolidation of a human rights-based approach to indigenous peoples' issues at the intergovernmental and national levels is acknowledged. However, a substantial gap is identified between intentions at the policy level and the actual implementation of specific objectives of the Second Decade. It is stressed that further efforts must be made to transform initiatives at the policy level into effective action for and with indigenous peoples.

10-46306 (E) 160810

Please recycle

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Assessment of the implementation of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	5
	A. Promoting non-discrimination, inclusion and full and effective participation of indigenous peoples (objectives 1 and 2)	5
	B. Redefining culturally appropriate development policies (objective 3)	10
	C. Adopting targeted policies and programmes for the development of indigenous peoples (objective 4)	13
	D. Promoting strong monitoring mechanisms and enhancing accountability at all levels (objective 5)	15
III.	Conclusions	17
IV.	Recommendations	19

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/161, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and mechanisms and other stakeholders, including indigenous peoples' organizations, to submit a midterm assessment report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session evaluating progress made in the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second Decade.

2. In resolution 59/174, the General Assembly proclaimed the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, commencing on 1 January 2005. The theme of the Second Decade is "Partnership for action and dignity".

3. The first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, covering the period 1995-2004, produced a number of significant achievements towards meeting its goal of strengthening international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous peoples. Those achievements included the establishment of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the appointment of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, the formation of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, the annual observance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 9 August, the establishment of the Indigenous Fellowship Programme at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the creation of a voluntary fund to support indigenous organizations in carrying out human rights projects (see E/CN.4/2005/87).

4. At the end of the first Decade it was generally found that, while indigenous peoples had been effective in utilizing the United Nations system for dialogue and awareness-raising, they had achieved only sporadic impact on the policies of United Nations agencies and affiliated institutions and on the actual implementation of programmes and projects.

5. Accordingly, the goal of the Second Decade is the "further strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous peoples in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development by means of action-oriented programmes and specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities". In resolution 59/174, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the Coordinator for the Second Decade.

6. In resolution 60/142, the General Assembly adopted the Programme of Action for the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People as a guideline for action for the Second Decade. The Programme of Action contains various recommendations addressed to Member States, United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations and civil society organizations at all levels and cuts across the various areas of the goal for the Second Decade. In the present report, the analysis of the progress made towards the implementation of the Second Decade takes, as its point of departure, the five objectives and specific activities suggested in the Programme of Action. It is recalled that the five objectives are:

(i) Promoting non-discrimination and the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of international, regional and national processes regarding laws, policies, resources, programmes and projects;

(i) Promoting non-discrimination and the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of international, regional and national processes regarding laws, policies, resources, programmes and projects;

(ii) Promoting full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions which directly or indirectly affect their lifestyles, their traditional lands and territories, their cultural integrity as indigenous peoples with collective rights or any other aspect of their lives, considering the principle of free, prior and informed consent;

(iii) Redefining development policies that depart from a vision of equity and that are culturally inappropriate to include respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous peoples;

(iv) Adopting targeted policies, programmes, projects and budgets for the development of indigenous peoples, including concrete benchmarks, with particular emphasis on indigenous women, children and youth;

(v) Developing strong monitoring mechanisms and enhancing accountability at the international, regional and, particularly, the national level regarding the implementation of legal, policy and operational frameworks for the protection of indigenous peoples and the improvement of their lives.

7. The present report identifies and suggests key priority areas and possible strategies for strengthened action during the second half of the Second Decade (2010-2014). The report also identifies and provides specific examples of good practice in the promotion of the goal and objectives of the Second Decade.

8. In July 2009, the Coordinator of the Second Decade issued a call for contributions to the midterm assessment. Eleven Member States, 19 United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, and 11 indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations responded. In addition to those contributions, the assessment takes into consideration the reports of Member States and of agencies, and other materials generated in connection with sessions of the General Assembly and of the Permanent Forum during the period 2005-2009.

9. The following Member States responded to the request for information: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Tunisia and Venezuela. The following United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes and other intergovernmental organizations responded to the request for information made by the Coordinator for the Second Decade: Department of Political Affairs, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Labour Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Forum on Forests, United Nations Population Fund, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, Asian Development Bank, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, European Commission, International Organization for Migration, Organization for Economic Cooperation

and Development. The following non-governmental and indigenous organizations also responded to the request for information: Alliance for International Reforestation, Nagkakaisang Mga Tribu ng Palawan, West Papua Interest Association. The following organizations provided a joint statement: International Indian Treaty Council, Indigenous World Association, American Indian Law Alliance, International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development and the Native Women's Association. A joint statement was also provided by: Imani Youth Group, Zo Reunification Organization, Fundación Kalu Ibaky, United Confederation of Taino People, Socio-Cultural & Educational Welfare Association, Centre of Assistance to Local Development Alternatives and New Dawn for Women and Their Development.

II. Assessment of the implementation of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

10. The present assessment of the degree of implementation of the goal and objectives of the Second Decade takes as its point of departure the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. Selected measures, programmes and initiatives are highlighted as examples of good practice in promoting the implementation of the goal and objectives of the Second Decade. The examples mentioned may be relevant to several objectives at the same time, as the objectives themselves are interrelated.

A. Promoting non-discrimination, inclusion and full and effective participation of indigenous peoples (objectives 1 and 2)

11. The concept of non-discrimination, inclusion and full extension of the rights of citizenship and equality within the State as well as of participation in intergovernmental work is a core element of the first objective of the Second Decade and a fundamental human rights norm in international law, firmly enshrined in international human rights instruments. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples reconfirms this norm and analyses its meaning as it pertains to indigenous peoples. The adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly in resolution 61/295 after more than 20 years of negotiation constitutes a major achievement of the Second Decade. Although a small number of States abstained in the vote and an even smaller number voted against the Declaration, there is a trend for those States to revise their positions and declare their endorsement of the Declaration.[1]

12. The Programme of Action calls for United Nations agencies and Member States to create initiatives that recognize the unique identities and needs of indigenous peoples, promote and safeguard their right to participation and self-determination, and foster respect for their values, lifestyles and world views.

13. The recognition of indigenous peoples' individual and collective rights has gained momentum in a number of States, as evidenced in a continuum of actions by

[1] In 2009 Australia, Colombia and Samoa changed their positions on the Declaration. They were followed in 2010 by New Zealand.

Governments. Processes of redefining citizenship are sometimes going beyond simple recognition of the existence of different cultures within a given society to effective promotion of a relationship based on reciprocity and mutual exchange between cultures. Such actions constitute the core of the concept of interculturality that has been initiated in some countries.

14. In a few countries, mainly in Latin America, the Declaration has become an integral part of constitutional reform processes. For example, in 2007 Bolivia, now called the Plurinational State of Bolivia, adopted the Declaration as national law (Law 3760) and in 2008 Ecuador approved a new Constitution which, in article 1, defines Ecuador as a State that is intercultural and plurinational and, in article 57, consolidates the rights of indigenous peoples, communities and nations in terms of their traditional structures of organization, political participation and representation before the State.

15. In comparison with the world's other regions, Latin America is at the forefront in defining the concept of "interculturality" and in applying it as an instrument for the reformulation of relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous populations within the State and in national policymaking. However, lack of technical knowledge among civil servants is a fundamental barrier to the application in practice of an intercultural focus in national policies and specific programmes. International normative tools, such as the Declaration, encounter great challenges in the implementation phase at the national level and require a strong effort to sensitize and educate all sectors of society.

16. In many regions of the world, States have initiated processes of recognition and inclusion,[2] governance based on self-determination[3] and reconciliation in the form of national apologies.[4]

17. Acknowledging the importance of the direct political participation and representation of indigenous peoples, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2008 initiated a project to promote inclusive parliaments. This initiative facilitates active cooperation between Governments, UNDP country offices and indigenous peoples' organizations. It develops the capacity of Government officials and representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations to implement inclusive and participatory policymaking processes and to integrate indigenous peoples' rights into national policy and strategies.

18. In Russia, the First Congress of the Sami People of the Murmansk Region was established in 2008 with the aim of representing indigenous peoples in regional governments in the northern and far-eastern regions of the Russian Federation, as

[2] In 2009, the Government of Japan officially recognized the Ainu people as the indigenous people of Japan.

[3] In 2009, a new Self-Government Act for Greenland was promulgated "in accordance with the right of self-determination of the people of Greenland under international law" (Act No. 473 of 12 June 2009). In Sweden, Norway and Finland, national legal reform processes have been initiated and strengthened to ensure the consultation of indigenous peoples in all matters concerning them, along with the consolidation and strengthening of self-governing institutions.

[4] In 2008, the Governments of Australia and Canada issued national apologies in relation to the systematic abuse of the human rights indigenous children in the context of past assimilation policies.

well as in Inter-Arctic conferences. In a few instances, States have also reported the establishment of indigenous peoples' political parties, as in Nepal and Ecuador.

19. With indigenous women a particular focus group in the Declaration, the Programme of Action for the Second Decade and in the work conducted by the Permanent Forum, awareness of their situation of multiple discrimination has been increased and initiatives have been implemented to address it. For example, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), has supported the process of political inclusion of indigenous women in southern Bolivia, working to strengthen their advocacy skills and their political participation (see E/C.19/2008/4/Add.2). At the regional level, UNIFEM places strong emphasis on work to combat ethnic and gender-based violence and has implemented targeted programmes focused on indigenous women's access to justice.[5]

20. In general, however, in many States, indigenous peoples and particularly indigenous women still face a lack of official recognition and direct political participation. The Asian and Pacific region is home to about 70 per cent of the world's indigenous people, yet only a handful of States in that region have officially recognized the existence of indigenous peoples in their countries, and the political participation and representation of indigenous peoples in national legislative processes is in most countries low or non-existent.[6]

21. In the African context, indigenous peoples are mostly not recognized and, as a consequence, indigenous peoples' collective claims on land and natural resources are denied, as illustrated in a study prepared in 2009 by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights entitled "The Rights of indigenous peoples in 24 African countries".

22. Where advances can be identified with respect to the inclusion of indigenous peoples in national policy formulation this is mostly to be attributed to indigenous peoples' organizations' advocacy, which has been increasingly instrumental in pushing for long-term cooperative action within States and, also, in relation to international development organizations. The Permanent Forum has also contributed significantly by providing a high-level forum in which the voices of indigenous peoples can be heard and by increasing awareness of their issues and the need for their inclusion in development processes, including the Millennium Development Goal processes. As evidenced, for example, by the climate change debate, indigenous peoples have increasingly been proactive in attending international conferences in order for their perspectives to be included in discussions and to advocate for their full and effective participation in all activities on the international political agenda that concern or affect them, as stated in the Anchorage Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change, in April 2009.

23. From a regional perspective, an important contribution to awareness-raising and the placing of indigenous peoples' issues on the political agenda has been made by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. During the negotiations on the Declaration, it played a crucial role in facilitating dialogue on and understanding of the provisions of the Declaration among African States. However, at the national level implementation of the Declaration is still lacking.

---

[5] Annual report 2009 to UNPFII and UNIFEM; www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/UNIFEM_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[6] International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, *The Indigenous World 2008*.

24. The Andean Community, the Central American Integration System, the Caribbean Community and Common Market, and the Artic Council are additional examples of regional forums which have included indigenous peoples' issues in their formal political agendas. Promotion of such initiatives at the intergovernmental level is of particular importance to indigenous peoples, as they are often faced with transborder situations and are thus under the jurisdiction of several States.

25. Within international institutions, including those of the United Nations system, important provisions and models for consultation and participation have been developed to guide a wider application of the principle of participation, which is a fundamental cornerstone of the Declaration. A recent specific example is the adoption of a policy on indigenous peoples by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, which explicitly recognizes the principle of free, prior and informed consent and foresees the establishment of an indigenous peoples' consultative group within the organization.[7]

26. At the global level, the Permanent Forum has galvanized support, visibility and engagement with regard to indigenous issues, as illustrated by the increased participation and voluntary reporting of Member States, United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as the increased number of indigenous peoples' representatives participating in the yearly session of the Permanent Forum.

27. Following a reform of the United Nations human rights mechanisms, the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 6/36 of 14 December 2007, established an expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples. The new expert mechanism constitutes an important instrument in intergovernmental work on indigenous peoples' rights, especially in the research and documentation of indigenous peoples' issues.

28. Incorporating and linking the Declaration to other international standard-setting and programmatic instruments has been instrumental in furthering the participation of indigenous peoples in international development programmes. It is important in this context to highlight the increasing role of, for example, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Special Voluntary Fund for Facilitating Participation of the Developing Country Parties and especially the Working Group on Article 8 (j), which have all provided mechanisms for indigenous peoples to participate directly in the work of the Convention and in the adoption of the Akwé Kon Guidelines.[8]

29. The programme of work of the Working Group on Article 8 (j) includes developing indicators for the preservation of traditional knowledge, as well as mechanisms to address the causes of the loss of such knowledge, and the development of an ethics code to ensure respect for indigenous peoples' cultural and intellectual heritage relevant to the conservation of biological diversity and its sustainable use.

30. Another significant example of promoting the goal and objectives of the Second Decade is the linkage between the provisions of the Declaration and the

[7] www.ifad.org/english/indigenous/documents/ip_policy_e.pdf.

[8] Voluntary guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on land or waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities.

Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which entered into force in 2007 and to which more than one hundred States are parties. The Convention is instrumental in the efforts to ensure the right of indigenous peoples to create and disseminate their cultural goods and services in a fair environment.[9]

31. Another important operational instrument to promote indigenous peoples' issues in an intergovernmental context is the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, which at present counts 32 participating agencies and organizations.

32. From a global perspective, the participatory mechanism under the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) and the UNDP Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme are additional examples of participatory mechanisms established for indigenous peoples. In order to engage more effectively with indigenous peoples, the programmes have provided direct support to indigenous projects, and consultative mechanisms have been established in which indigenous peoples participate.

33. At the programmatic level, especially within intergovernmental organizations, progress is being made and new initiatives have been introduced to facilitate new forms for the participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples in programmes and activities. However, there is still a substantial lack of systematic mainstream engagement and mechanisms for direct participation within international institutions, development programmes and project-related activities in areas or on issues relating to indigenous peoples and relatively few international institutions have developed guidelines, institutional policies or safeguard policies on engagement with indigenous peoples.[10]

34. Notwithstanding the policies and initiatives mentioned above, it is predominately still on an ad hoc basis that national institutions and international development organizations and financial institutions conduct consultations with indigenous peoples. Lack of resources, methodological instruments and time in the programming process are identified as the main reasons for this situation.

35. The availability of and access to information in indigenous peoples' languages is another important factor for the promotion of the effective participation of indigenous peoples, the extension to them of effective citizenship and in securing their real and informed participation in national policymaking and development activities. The systematic use and recognition of indigenous peoples' languages is only seen as important in a few States and a few international development organizations. In Scandinavia and in South America, some States have declared indigenous languages to be national languages, to be used in educational systems, as

[9] Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, fifteenth preambular paragraph. Explicit reference is also made to indigenous peoples in the eighth preambular paragraph and articles 2 and 7 of the Convention.

[10] The following organizations and financial institutions have developed policies on indigenous peoples: the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) and, most recently, the International Fund for Agricultural Development in 2009.

well as providing public services in indigenous languages. With respect to the Declaration and ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, extensive work has been done on translating those instruments into over a hundred indigenous languages.[11]

36. When indigenous peoples' inclusion and the issue of non-discrimination are looked at globally, one of the conclusions that can be reached is that the Declaration has become a central reference in the consolidation of a human rights-based approach in activities and programmes focused on indigenous peoples' issues, particularly the right to self-determination and the right to free, prior and informed consent. This trend is, however, much stronger at the intergovernmental than at the national level, as many States still do not even acknowledge the presence of indigenous peoples in their countries. The political exclusion and lack of representation of indigenous peoples in government and national decision-making processes and bodies is a major challenge.

B. Redefining culturally appropriate development policies (objective 3)

37. Self-determination, as referred to in articles 3 and 32 of the Declaration, must be placed at the centre of the activities of States and international organizations working on issues relevant to indigenous peoples, in order for indigenous peoples to exercise their right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development and use of their resources or in relation to activities that affect their land or territories.

38. The third objective of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade is set out to promote the redefinition of development policies at all levels. National institutions and international organizations mandated to work on development are increasingly being challenged to depart from development regimes based on assimilation and to encourage the involvement, participation and appreciation of the cultures, traditional knowledge and visions of indigenous peoples at all levels of the development process.

39. The Second Decade and the Declaration call for the application of a holistic and endogenous approach to development which is inclusive and based on indigenous peoples' aspirations, along with respect and protection of their diversity and uniqueness. Whereas the first Decade demonstrated a relatively large gap between intentions and actual implementation of development policies inclusive of indigenous peoples' issues and rights, the Second Decade has so far produced important initiatives and models for a new approach in working on indigenous peoples' issues.

40. An example is the ILO programme to support Member States in including indigenous peoples' issues in national poverty reduction strategy papers and development plans. Since 1999, that initiative has given rise to participatory models and mechanisms, and facilitated dialogue between Governments and indigenous peoples' organizations for the construction of inclusive national and sector-specific

[11] For the translation of the Declaration in various languages, see www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/declaration.html.

development plans in countries which until recently have demonstrated a significant lack of focus on indigenous peoples.

41. Other targeted initiatives are trust funds and small-scale projects specifically established to further indigenous peoples' development within existing national or international development programs, a modality which has become increasingly popular at an institutional level and among donors. However, the amounts of donor funds that are actually flowing to targeted programmes for indigenous peoples' development represent only a minor part of the general budgets allocated to development, both within international development organizations and in national budgets.

42. The mainstreaming and large-scale inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples in specific national or international programmes is hindered by a variety of factors, such as a lack of understanding and knowledge of indigenous issues, a lack of resources and technical capability and also, in some cases, a lack of political will. At the national level, complex issues such as land rights, climate change, armed conflicts, the effects of globalization and privatization, the concession of natural resources, the scarcity of resources and discrimination are often determining factors in how indigenous peoples' issues are approached in development processes.

43. A significant contribution to the process of redefining national and international development policies has come from the indigenous peoples in the Andean region of Latin America. Through concepts such as "Buen vivir", applied in practice under the new national development plan of Ecuador from 2009, a reconceptualization of the dominant understanding of social and economic well-being is proposed in the form of an alternative self-determined development linked to indigenous peoples' historical, cultural and spiritual relations with Mother Earth and their lands and territories.[12]

44. On a global scale, the reconceptionalization of development is being explored and promoted among indigenous peoples in all regions of the world and increasingly also by the United Nations system. The Permanent Forum systematically adopts recommendations in that direction. The special theme of the ninth session of the Permanent Forum was development with culture and identity. In addition to the interesting preparatory work of experts and United Nations agencies on that special theme (see E/C.19/2010/14 and E/C.19/2010/8), the Permanent Forum adopted a comprehensive set of recommendations on development with culture and identity.[13]

45. Within the United Nations system, one of the most important advances during the Second Decade in relation to promoting the development with culture and identity of indigenous peoples has been the revision in 2007 of the United Nations Development Group's Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework Guidelines. The revised Guidelines include 15 references to indigenous peoples and are currently being applied in the United Nations system through awareness-raising and capacity-building by United Nations country teams worldwide, a process spearheaded by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous

[12] Declaration of Indigenous Peoples for Food Sovereignty, Rome 2009 www.madre.org/index.php?s=4&news=243.

[13] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 23* (E/2010/43-E/C.19/2010/15), chap. I.B, paras. 4-35.

Peoples' Issues. In 2008, the United Nations Development Group adopted the Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, which brings to the country level the normative framework of the Declaration, ILO Convention No. 169 and relevant international instruments.

46. The inclusion of indigenous peoples' issues in the operationalization of international development policies indicates a growing trend among international organizations to recognize the unique needs of indigenous peoples within societies previously perceived as monocultural and to identify mechanisms so as to respect indigenous peoples' values and local decision-making processes. Despite deficiencies in implementation, the role of indigenous peoples as agents of their own development and the understanding of the importance of their consent and participation in projects that have an impact on their well-being and livelihood has increased.

47. Even though culturally appropriate development initiatives and mechanisms for consultation are gaining ground, the international development regime and, especially, national development programmes and plans still face strong criticism by indigenous peoples regarding the impact of development programmes, "mega" projects and globalization on their communities and territories, and the lack of meaningful and institutionalized mechanisms for consultation and for their participation in the design and implementation of those projects.

48. Indigenous peoples have in particular raised concerns regarding initiatives, for example the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), having an adverse impact on their communities and infringing their right to free, prior and informed consent. In that regard, indigenous peoples' movements have launched awareness campaigns worldwide, focusing on the threats of development mechanisms and strategies to indigenous territories and communities should projects continue to be implemented without the cooperation and involvement of indigenous peoples.

49. Despite an increasing focus on the participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples, a large gap between policy statement and actual implementation is systematically evident in relation to critical issues of governance, land rights, natural resources and other indigenous collective rights.

50. During the eighth session of the Permanent Forum a review was conducted of the degree of implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations on social and economic development. It was found that 52 per cent of such recommendations issued at past sessions had been reported as having been implemented or under implementation, while 46 per cent of those recommendations had not been reported on.

51. In terms of national follow-up on the recommendations, the lack of reporting by many Member States is making it more difficult to assess the level of implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations. Insofar as an increasing number of Member States is submitting annual reports to the Permanent Forum on their efforts to address indigenous peoples' issues, in particular those relating to social and economic development, it will be easier for the Forum to assess progress in the future. The newly established work practice of the Permanent

Forum of conducting in-depth dialogues with United Nations agencies has proven to be an important mechanism to assess the implementation of recommendations.

52. Facilitating factors for culturally sensitive international development processes for and with indigenous peoples have included the solid advocacy of indigenous peoples at the national and international levels; the reports and recommendations of the Permanent Forum and its continuing provision of follow-up and support to global, regional and national initiatives; the establishment of institutional policies on indigenous issues by United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations; and the continuing advocacy and technical work of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues.

C. Adopting targeted policies and programmes for the development of indigenous peoples (objective 4)

53. Indigenous peoples consistently lag behind the non-indigenous population in all of the world's regions with regard to most indicators of well-being and poverty. Indigenous peoples number about 370 million and while they constitute approximately 5 per cent of the world's population, they make up 15 per cent of the world's poor and about one third of the world's 900 million extremely poor rural people.[14] The fourth objective of the Second Decade is to promote the adoption of targeted policies, programmes, projects and budgets for the development of indigenous peoples, including concrete benchmarks, with particular emphasis on indigenous women, children and youth.

54. Targeted interventions and positive action for indigenous peoples are increasingly being acknowledged as necessary to promote their individual and collective rights and to reduce effectively the social and economic marginalization that many of them face.

55. States are increasingly working with national or regional branches of United Nations agencies such as ILO, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, UNIFEM, IFAD and others to strengthen their role in creating targeted, mostly small-scale, interventions on indigenous peoples' issues. Efforts have mainly focused on interventions in areas such as education and health, with the aim of developing educational and health systems adapted to indigenous peoples' cultures with and through their participation.

56. As indigenous women and youth face significant challenges to the full enjoyment of their human rights, the Permanent Forum has paid special attention to those two groups in its work. The human rights of indigenous women are protected by all the provisions of the Declaration, which, in article 22, calls for special attention to be paid to the rights of the women and their special needs. Also, in the Plan of Action for the Second Decade States are called upon to take measures to ensure that indigenous women enjoy full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

57. During the eighth session of the Permanent Forum, in 2009, a review of the degree of implementation of its recommendations concerning indigenous women was conducted. On the basis of the annual reporting by States and United Nations

[14] *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.VI.13), p. 21.

agencies, the Permanent Forum concluded that both States and United Nations agencies had implemented a broad range of important initiatives to improve the situation of indigenous women and to meet the recommendations made on the issue by the Permanent Forum (see E/C.19/2009/9). The increased awareness and mobilization of indigenous women worldwide was identified as an important factor, along with the establishment of an inter-agency task force, which worked specifically on this issue from 2004 to 2007. That Inter-Agency Task Force on Indigenous Women provided participating United Nations agencies with an opportunity to promote the special concerns of indigenous women within the work of the United Nations system.

58. Even though targeted initiatives are being implemented, the Permanent Forum, in its review, also concluded that a range of recommendations had not been implemented, mostly owing to the lack of financial resources of both Government and United Nations agencies. Lack of awareness regarding indigenous peoples' issues in general was also found to have a strong negative impact, particularly on women's issues.

59. Besides ILO, with Convention No. 169 and the institutional framework for its promotion, and the United Nations bodies and mechanisms mandated specifically to work on indigenous peoples' issues, only a few international organizations, among others IFAD, identify indigenous peoples' issues as a priority area.

60. At the national level, States have reported on specific measures that they are taking to address indigenous peoples' issues in order to meet their respective human development goals, the Millennium Development Goals or benchmarks contained in national development plans. However, indigenous peoples' issues are in general addressed under the heading of a social problem of a more general character, without strategic and targeted interventions. Poverty reduction strategies in general address indigenous peoples' livelihood situations together with those of other vulnerable groups in a given society. Rarely are indigenous peoples specifically addressed in national development plans and, if at all, they are most often targeted through minor, isolated projects and focus on their specific needs is not mainstreamed into large-scale programmes.

61. The emphasis on targeted interventions and specific funding for indigenous peoples has to a large degree come from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in specific assistance facility mechanisms channelling funds to indigenous peoples. These are projects such as the small grants programme under the Second Decade, the Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility administered by IFAD, the Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities and Indigenous Intellectual Property Law Fellowship Programme of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the United Nations-REDD initiative.

62. The Plan of Action for the Second Decade constitutes a comprehensive framework and targeted initiative for promoting indigenous peoples' issues at the regional, national and international levels. However, only a few States, international organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations have developed specific activities and programmes to promote the objectives and goal of the Second Decade. One such initiative is the Strategy for the Second Decade developed by the non-governmental organization International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues through its small grants programme under

the Second Decade, administered by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.[15]

63. The general trend among both Governments and international development institutions is to support small-scale projects and activities on indigenous peoples' issues, reporting them as aligned with the objectives of the Second Decade. Thus, at both the national and international levels, targeted development programmes and projects for the Second Decade have had relatively low visibility.

D. Promoting strong monitoring mechanisms and enhancing accountability at all levels (objective 5)

64. Central to addressing indigenous peoples' issues is the need for the creation of strong monitoring mechanisms and accountability, in particular with regard to the documentation of well-being and the assessment of the impact of targeted and other interventions, and of compliance with the human rights of indigenous peoples.

65. Unfortunately, there is still a general trend to exclude indigenous issues from development diagnostics, country development planning and other Government processes, a situation also encountered in international work. In country and regional reports on the status of human development and the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as well as in common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework reports, indigenous peoples have low visibility.[16] In general, indigenous peoples are not explicitly mentioned in those reports and there is a general lack of disaggregated data concerning them. Any reference to the state of indigenous peoples' development is normally absorbed into a general aggregation of socially vulnerable groups of the population.

66. According to the information provided by various United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations for the present report, only a few of them have developed specific appropriate monitoring mechanisms or indicators for indigenous peoples' issues, and even fewer have specifically and systematically integrated statistics and data on indigenous peoples into their annual reporting processes, either at the country, the regional or the global level.

67. New models and approaches are being developed in relation to monitoring and benchmarking indigenous peoples' issues from a development perspective. Among them is an initiative of the Poverty Group's Millennium Development Goal Support Cluster of UNDP, which has been working on the preparation of "peer review" processes for existing and new Millennium Development Goal needs assessment models in connection with a new project entitled "A rights-based review of the Millennium Development Goal needs assessment models". These models guide

[15] From 2006 to the present the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues has facilitated financing for 75 projects worldwide (one-year projects with an average budget of US$ 10,000 each); 41 per cent of the projects are in the human rights area, facilitating participatory processes, empowering indigenous peoples worldwide at the grass-roots level and furthering the implementation of the specific goal and objectives of the Second Decade.

[16] Desk reviews of selected Millennium Development Goal and common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework reports are available on Forum publications site at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/publications.html.

global, regional and country teams when supporting programme countries in developing Millennium Development Goal-based development strategies. The project is aimed at ensuring that Millennium Development Goal needs assessment models take into account and reflect rights-based standards and principles, including the rights of indigenous peoples.

68. Another substantial contribution to promoting data collection and monitoring mechanisms particularly focused on indigenous peoples has been the development of culturally appropriate indicators supported jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IFAD, ILO, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the Tebtebba Foundation, the International Indian Treaty Council, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and its secretariat. A global synthesis report (E/C.19/2008/9) was submitted to the Permanent Forum at its seventh session, in 2008.

69. For the Permanent Forum, the establishment of culturally appropriate indicators and monitoring mechanisms has been of special interest. The Forum has repeatedly called on States and the United Nations system to apply indicators and monitoring mechanisms appropriate and adapted to indigenous peoples' issues, particularly focusing on the Millennium Development Goals.

70. At the first session of the Forum, in May 2002, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations was requested to produce a publication on the state of the world's indigenous peoples, containing data on indigenous peoples and discussing issues relating to indigenous peoples in the thematic areas within the Forum's mandate.[17] The first issue of the requested report, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*[14] was launched in January 2010 and constitutes a path-breaking instrument for the promotion and documentation of indigenous peoples' situation worldwide.

71. To highlight and analyse the issue of data collection and disaggregation and indigenous peoples, an expert workshop was convened by the Permanent Forum from 19 to 21 January 2004, in New York. Thirty-six experts from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations participated, along with representatives of Governments, indigenous organizations and academia, including statisticians. During the workshop a number of problems were underlined and recommendations were made on the issue. The Permanent Forum endorsed the recommendations of the workshop at subsequent sessions.[18]

72. From an international and national legal perspective, both ILO Convention No. 169 and the Declaration have increasingly become points of reference for national and international court rulings on indigenous peoples' issues, especially in the Latin American context, as for example in the emblematic Awas Tingni case that resulted in a landmark ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in 2001 protecting indigenous peoples' collective land and resource rights.

73. In another landmark decision, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights ruled in 2010 that the failure of the State of Kenya to consult or compensate adequately the Endorois people violated the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Commission has called for the recognition of the Endorois' ownership

[17] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 23* (E/2002/43/Rev.1-E/CN.19/2002/3/Rev.1), chap. II.B, para. 8.

[18] E/C.19/2004/2.

of their ancestral land, and its restitution. The case is the first to be decided by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights that expressly recognizes indigenousness — the maintaining of a traditional way of life that is dependent on ancestral land — in the African context.

74. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples is an equally important actor for accountability in the human rights area. Under this mandate of the Human Rights Council, which includes investigating and entering into dialogue with States on human rights violations committed against indigenous peoples, the Special Rapporteur has, since 2006, issued seven country reports and three special reports. Following the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur has been amended to include the promotion of the Declaration (see Human Rights Council resolution 6/12).

75. Some States have established a specific national human rights mechanism with a mandate on indigenous peoples and a limited number have established a mechanism for indigenous peoples to seek redress for decisions made by States. Insofar as indigenous peoples all over the world have encountered discrimination and lack access to national juridical systems and to a fair and just legal process, indigenous peoples' organizations in many instances have directed their complaints to international legal institutions, for example the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and recently the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in addition to a number of international human rights treaty bodies and mechanisms, such as the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and various special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council.

III. Conclusions

76. In the present report, the progress made in the implementation of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People has been identified and analysed and good examples of initiatives which have furthered their implementation have been provided.

77. The Second Decade (2005-2014) follows a first decade (1995-2004) which, upon its conclusion, was deemed not to have achieved its main goal and objectives. Especially in relation to the adoption of a United Nations declaration on indigenous peoples' rights and the implementation of human rights measures at the national level, the first Decade lacked adequate impact. The goal and objectives set out for the Second Decade highlight those challenges and call for enhanced efforts.

78. The first half of the Second Decade has brought significant results with regard to the goal of "further strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous peoples in areas such as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development by means of action-oriented technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities".

79. Advances in achieving the goal of the Second Decade can be identified in relation to indigenous peoples' organizations engaging in advocacy for equality, applying international normative instruments, including the Declaration and challenging Governments, private companies and international organizations to implement international norms on indigenous people's rights.

80. Also significant has also been the proposed alternative approach to the understanding of development and progress advocated by indigenous peoples. The United Nations system has initiated a dialogue around the concept of development with culture and identity to which the Permanent Forum made a considerable contribution at its ninth session. The concept is still new in development practices, and examples of its application are few. At the national level, applications of culturally adapted approaches have mainly occurred in the educational and health sectors.

81. In the United Nations system, the establishment of specific task forces on indigenous peoples' issues and the inclusion of indigenous peoples' issues in the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes, including through the issuance of the United Nations Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, have contributed significantly to increased institutional awareness of indigenous peoples' issues and to the operationalization and initiation of programmes and initiatives specifically targeting those issues.

82. At the intergovernmental level, the Declaration has played a crucial role as a reference for the application of other binding intergovernmental mechanisms. Thus, Governments are increasingly encouraged to be accountable on specific issues pertinent to indigenous peoples, as for example under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The adoption of the Declaration has provided a consolidation of the human rights-based approach among intergovernmental organizations and at the national level. In relatively few States, however, the Declaration has had a direct effect on the national legislative framework and actual policymaking, a challenge to be pursued in the second half of the Second Decade.

83. At the operative level, pilot initiatives and spaces for dialogue and the promotion of indigenous peoples' issues and participation have been established at national, regional and international levels. However, the fundamental issue of free, prior and informed consent and its full application remains a challenge in the majority of States and also in international development programmes.

84. Many Member States, United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations have reported targeted initiatives for the traditionally excluded and marginalized livelihood situations of indigenous peoples. However, in view of the fact that one third of the rural poor are indigenous peoples, the scale of the targeted programmes and projects does not reflect the severity of the situation and an upscaling of good experience is needed to make a substantial impact on indigenous peoples' lives.

85. In relation to specific activities designed to promote the Second Decade, relatively few international organizations and Governments have developed specific and targeted actions. In general, it is reported that activities implemented in the area of indigenous peoples' issues are typically not directed specifically towards achieving the goal and objectives of the Second Decade, although to a large extent they are aligned with them.

86. Even in States where legislative measures on indigenous peoples' rights and issues have been established, there is often a lack of effective implementation, due to lack of knowledge, capacity and operationalization of policies.

IV. Recommendations

87. In view of the challenges identified at the national and international levels, the following main areas appear to warrant significant attention during the second half of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People:

(a) In order to achieve the goal and objectives set out for the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People, it is recommended that Member States concerned initiate steps to recognize the indigenous peoples in their countries.

(b) States are called upon to establish national legislative frameworks for indigenous peoples' rights, individual as well as collective, and to develop institutional policies and mechanisms so as to engage effectively on indigenous peoples' issues, taking as a point of reference the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

(c) Increased funding, mainstreaming and upscaling of successful programmes on indigenous peoples' issues are urgently required in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for the world's indigenous peoples also.

(d) It is recommended that Member States consider creating special national committees on the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People in order to promote the implementation of its goal and objectives more effectively.

(e) Continuing efforts should be made by the United Nations system, Member States and indigenous peoples worldwide for the full application and operationalization of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

United Nations A/65/167

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 July 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Item 63 (a) of the provisional agenda*
New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

New Partnership for Africa's Development: eighth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, mandated by General Assembly resolution 64/258, assesses the progress achieved in implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the related support provided by the international community. It coincides with various progress reports on the Millennium Development Goals with a special focus on Africa. In addition, the upcoming High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals will focus closely on Africa. This attention reflects the fact that most African countries face serious challenges in reaching the Goals.

Within the context of the current fragile and uncertain global recovery, the implementation of NEPAD and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals require firm determination and leadership on the part of both African countries and the international development partners so as to move from a vision to concrete results. In particular, the present report, while acknowledging that African countries have made good progress in implementing NEPAD sectoral priorities, reiterates the need for African countries and institutions to allocate more resources towards NEPAD priorities, including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, and to adopt a continent-wide communications and outreach strategy to further mobilize national, regional and international stakeholders to participate in NEPAD projects. Development partners should scale up development aid and improve aid effectiveness in order to ensure that commitments are achieved by the set deadline.

* A/65/150.

10-46319 (E) 130810

Please recycle

A comprehensive Africa Plan of Action on the Millennium Development Goals is imperative for success. The Millennium Development Goals summit could be an appropriate platform for calling for the implementation, on an urgent basis, of international commitments, including the long-overdue successful outcome of the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations with a development dimension. Making trade beneficial to least developed countries and facilitating the transfer of technology remain important in order for the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved in Africa.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Action taken by African countries and organizations	4
	A. Infrastructure	4
	B. Agriculture and food security	6
	C. Health	8
	D. Education and training	8
	E. Environment and tourism	9
	F. Information and communications technology	10
	G. Science and technology	11
	H. Gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and civil society participation	12
	I. African Peer Review Mechanism	13
III.	Response of the international community: building on the momentum of international support for Africa's development	14
	A. Official development assistance	15
	B. Debt relief	16
	C. Foreign direct investment	17
	D. Trade	18
	E. South-South cooperation	19
IV.	Support provided by the United Nations system	20
	A. Strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme and the cluster system	20
	B. Millennium Villages	21
V.	Conclusions and recommendations	22

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 64/258, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. The present report responds to that request.

2. The report highlights the policy measures taken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the response of the international community and the support provided by the United Nations system during the past year. The activities undertaken by the private sector and civil society in support of NEPAD are also highlighted. The report benefited from information provided by Member States, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and various entities of the United Nations system. The report is complemented by the reports of the Secretary-General A/65/165 and A/65/152.

II. Action taken by African countries and organizations

3. NEPAD represents a collective vision and a strategic socio-economic development framework for Africa. The move from a framework to an operational blueprint relies on the determination of each and every individual country and its concrete policy actions. In particular, each country is expected to formulate its own development programme consistent with the NEPAD goals, in order to promote sustainable growth and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, AfDB and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) are responsible for carrying out a number of projects and programmes in the process of the implementation of NEPAD. The regional economic communities, which play a leading role in the context of economic integration, are key players in the implementation of projects at the subregional level. In February 2010, the fourteenth African Union Summit endorsed the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union and established NPCA. Within this new institutional configuration, the mandate of the NPCA is to manage, facilitate and coordinate the implementation of Africa's regional and continental priority programmes and projects.

A. Infrastructure

4. Bridging Africa's infrastructure gap, which is crucial to accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, is one of the key objectives of NEPAD. Efforts have continued in the past year to implement the various infrastructure programmes, in particular the short-term action plan and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, which replaced the Medium-to-Long-Term Strategic Framework. Those initiatives are being carried out in close collaboration with AfDB, the regional economic communities, development partners and other stakeholders.

5. The main goal of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa is to develop a vision for Africa's infrastructure development that is based on the continent's strategic objectives and sector policies, and provides a coherent framework for regional and continental transport, energy, water and information and communications technology infrastructure development. At a workshop hosted by AfDB, held in Tunisia in April 2010, the European Union shared best practices and the knowledge gained in the process of developing an efficient trans-European transport network, and their possible application in the context of the Programme was discussed. Sector studies and further consultative meetings will lead to final recommendations, which will be taken up by a special Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government for consideration and possible adoption.

6. The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, a forum in which major bilateral and multilateral donors work with continental and regional institutions to facilitate both public and private investment in Africa's infrastructure, focused its attention on fostering regional economic integration through infrastructure investments at its annual meeting, held in Tunisia in May 2010. Recognition of the lack of knowledge and data on the state of infrastructure led to the launching of the Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic project, which culminated in the recently published World Bank report entitled *Africa's Infrastructure: A Time for Transformation*. One key finding of the report is that although Africa faces infrastructure investment requirements of $93 billion a year, it currently spends $45 billion annually. The remaining financing gap of $48 billion could, however, be reduced by $17 billion through a more effective use of existing resources, including increased regional integration.

7. As a response to the global economic crisis, multilateral development banks pledged to increase financing for infrastructure investments to provide short-term stimulus to economies. AfDB helped develop the action plan to respond to the financial crisis in Africa. A regional and continental strategy was put in place whereby international financial institutions and development banks pledged to increase their financial commitments to Africa by at least $15 billion in the next two to three years and to increase lending in the area of infrastructure.

8. To prepare a strategic framework for the socio-economic development of the Songwe River Basin, the border between Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, AfDB approved an African Water Facility grant of €3.5 million for the two countries to finance the detailed design and implementation of the Songwe River Basin Development Programme. The framework will provide a joint management strategy for the waters and detailed investment plans for a multi-purpose dam and associated hydropower schemes, irrigated agriculture, river stabilization, flood control, fisheries development, water supply and roads.

9. In the area of transport infrastructure, NPCA developed the NEPAD East-West corridor, and a project feasibility study is being carried out with a view to providing an integrated transport infrastructure solution from Senegal to Nigeria. In November 2009, the inaugural NEPAD Transport and Infrastructure Summit was held in South Africa. The Summit brought together African Governments, the private sector, financial institutions, development partners, transport experts and transport infrastructure development agencies to discuss existing regional and continental transport infrastructure development plans, and to develop new strategies on the basis of the previous successes achieved through current government policies and

plans. The Summit identified challenges in the area of transport infrastructure and their impact on regional integration and trade facilitation, highlighting the key role of port authorities and advocating one-stop border posts as a way to address constraints on trade resulting from cross-border formalities.

10. In the energy sector, NEPAD is preparing a regional programme for energy poverty alleviation based on the off-grid electrification concept that was successfully implemented in China and India, focusing on small-scale solutions catering to household needs. Advocating and promoting the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises in the electricity business, especially in the use of renewable energy sources to fast track the electrification of the continent, is a major strategic achievement of the secretariat in the energy sector. The use of renewable energy was promoted at several high-level meetings, including with partners such as OECD, the European Union (Africa-European Union Energy Partnership) and AfDB, among others. Those efforts resulted in the inclusion of renewable energy sources as a part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. In addition, NPCA is developing a continental policy on bio-energy and has set up a regional energy centre of excellence in cooperation with the Power Institute for East and Southern Africa.

11. Progress continues to be made on the NEPAD Information and Communications Technology Broadband Infrastructure Programme, which consists of the Uhurunet submarine cable and the Umojanet terrestrial network. Both initiatives were developed under the African Union protocol known as the Kigali Protocol, which came into force in 2008. The Uhuru submarine cable will extend from Europe to South Africa, connecting all coastal and island countries along the West African coast, and is being developed by the NEPAD-initiated Baharicom Company. It is expected to be completed and ready for use in mid-2012. With respect to Umojanet, the terrestrial network in southern and East Africa, a detailed feasibility study is being carried out. The results of a study undertaken between November 2008 and June 2009 indicated that 60 per cent of the optical fibre infrastructure was already in place and 8 per cent was under construction. In March 2010, the Inter-Governmental Assembly of the Kigali Protocol countries approved a group of Botswana-based investors as the lead investors that will develop, own and operate Umojanet.

B. Agriculture and food security

12. During the period under review, substantial progress was made in implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). African countries continue to mainstream the CAADP agenda into their agriculture and rural development strategies and programmes.

13. As of July 2010, 20 countries had signed their respective CAADP compacts. Seven more countries are expected to sign in 2010. Progress was also realized with regard to the commitment made by member countries to allocate 10 per cent of their budgets to agriculture. To date, eight countries have surpassed this commitment, and most countries have made significant progress towards that goal. More than 20 countries have achieved agricultural growth rates of 6 per cent or more.

14. Progress was also made with respect to the regional-level implementation of CAADP through the regional compacts. The International Conference on Financing

Regional Agricultural Policy in West Africa, held in Nigeria in November 2009, culminated in the signing of the Economic Community of West African States/Economic Community of West African States Agricultural Policy Regional Partnership Compact. This was the first regional CAADP compact to be signed.

15. A CAADP donors and partners meeting was held in Ethiopia in September 2009 with the objective of deepening awareness among key donor and Government actors of CAADP principles and processes. At the meeting, the progress made with respect to the implementation of CAADP at the international and country levels was reviewed. In addition, the meeting discussed and agreed on the modalities by which donor support for CAADP could be mobilized and harmonized with ongoing country-led initiatives. The CAADP multi-donor trust fund reached an agreement with partners on issues relating to financing and the implementation of CAADP.

16. The sixth Partnership Platform Meeting of CAADP was held in South Africa in April 2010. The meeting called upon all parties to ensure that adequate post-compact road maps were in place in each country upon signature of the Compact, to be followed by the immediate formulation of agricultural investment plans. The international development community has continued to devote attention to investing in land and water management through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which received a grant amounting to $150 million. The 2008-2009 joint NEPAD/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations programme focused on scaling up the adoption of conservative agriculture policies in southern Africa, reaching out to more than 23,700 rural households. The programme is being extended to East Africa in 2010. NPCA has also finalized the GEF-United Nations Environment Programme supported project on sustainable land management monitoring and evaluation capacity-building project for NEPAD and the regional economic communities for the period 2009-2012.

17. NPCA stepped up its efforts to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of farmers' organizations in the implementation of CAADP. Towards this end, NPCA facilitated the establishment of the CAADP Africa Forum, an annual platform for peer learning and the sharing of best practices and progress in African agriculture among policymakers and practitioners from across the continent. The Forum will serve as a bridge between the highly specialized expertise offered by the CAADP pillar lead institutions and the realities on the ground in African countries. The first Forum was held in Kenya in November 2009, where it was decided to make the Forum an instrument to help farmers' organizations facilitate sharing and learning with respect to progress among farmers and development experts and practitioners. The Forum would also promote the identification and scaling up of best practices in African agriculture as an input to the CAADP implementation process. It is anticipated that the outcome of and lessons learned from the 2010 Forum will provide input into the design and content of the NPCA framework on climate change and mitigation.

18. NPCA has also continued to collaborate with the African Union Commission, AfDB and ECA on monitoring and evaluating the progress made at the country and regional levels in the implementation of the 12 resolutions of the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for an African Green Revolution. Moreover, the recently established Partnership for African Fisheries has identified and selected four partners to prepare and submit proposals for the various policy working groups: (a) fisheries governance; (b) the fisheries trade; (c) stopping illegal fishing; and (d) policy think

tank. The working groups are engaged under the auspices of the Partnership Steering Committee, which convened in September 2009.

C. Health

19. In the health sector, NPCA continued to integrate its work programme with that of the African Union Commission and to establish projects in line with its new mandate. This year, the Commission has been focusing its efforts on reviewing and supporting the implementation of the Maputo Plan of Action on sexual and reproductive health and rights. In this spirit, the July 2010 African Union summit, held in Uganda, focused on maternal, infant and child health and development in Africa. NPCA also continues its advocacy in the area of enhancing global health initiatives on HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

20. NPCA contributes to addressing the human resource crisis in the health sector in Africa. It sits on the Board of the Global Health Workforce Alliance and chairs the African Platform on Human Resources for Health, which has established a secretariat hosted by the World Health Organization in Zimbabwe. NPCA is also conducting a study aimed at profiling and establishing the needs of sub-Saharan African medical schools, with the ultimate goal of mobilizing support with a view to increasing their capacity to produce a larger number of high-quality graduates.

21. Within the framework of the African Union Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan, the NEPAD Agency is coordinating a consortium to strengthen the harmonization of drug registration, implemented jointly with the World Health Organization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Clinton Foundation and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A donor and stakeholder meeting in London held in November 2009 secured additional donor support. The project will be implemented by the regional economic communities. The initiative for the strengthening of pharmaceutical innovation in Africa, which NPCA is carrying out together with the Council on Health Research for Development and the African Union Commission, is focused on improving access to medicines, research on alternative or improved products, and stimulating the production of medicines by African countries. It helps policymakers to understand how they can benefit from pharmaceutical innovation, to design effective national innovation strategies and to build capacity in their countries.

22. A technical committee meeting held in South Africa in February 2010 discussed the results of the study on strengthening pharmaceutical innovation in Africa and proposed the introduction of a new tool, the Pharmaceutical Innovation Framework and Grid, which would support countries in assessing their current situation and future objectives for pharmaceutical innovation and in designing national and regional action plans for innovation, as well as access to and the local production of medicines, diagnostics and vaccines.

D. Education and training

23. During the period under review, various education projects registered further progress. Negotiations are under way regarding a possible partnership between NPCA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for

the implementation of the project on teacher development through open and distance learning in Africa in eight African countries in the Southern African Development Community and Economic Community of West African States subregions.

24. The human resource development initiative for nurses and midwives in Africa led to the graduation of 11 students with a master's degree in community health nursing and psychiatric nursing from universities based in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. Those graduates have been deployed to Malawi. The initiative will benefit from a $1.5 million grant from China to continue its implementation phase in three additional countries in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) subregion.

25. NPCA continued to promote the implementation of centres of excellence in the framework of the education programme, including a centre for mathematics, science and technology education in the ECCAS subregion. A centre is being established in Gabon and should benefit from the extensive experience of the Government of Kenya.

26. NPCA has also made progress in the implementation of the forestry education initiative. The major objective of the initiative is to enhance the skills of students with respect to forestry issues through a viable master's programme delivered by a consortium of universities in participating countries. Negotiations have already taken place with six African countries, namely, Angola, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Malawi and South Africa.

E. Environment and tourism

27. Progress continues in the implementation of the NEPAD subregional environmental action plans adopted by the Ministers of the Environment of the five subregions in June 2008. To promote complementarity and coherence in the implementation of climate-change programmes under the leadership of NPCA, a meeting with the regional economic communities and key partners, including with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the World Wildlife Fund, was organized to work out partnership arrangements among the commissions.

28. NPCA also participated in the February 2010 meeting held in Kenya to discuss possible joint ventures and how to strengthen Africa's position in the upcoming negotiations leading to the sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held in Mexico in December 2010. During the Kyoto protocol negotiations on climate change held at the fifteenth Conference, in Copenhagen in December 2009, the African Union and NEPAD forged strategic alliances for systematic and proactive support to tackle the issue of climate change in line with the CAADP agenda. They advocated initiatives aimed at promoting mitigation and adaptation to climate variability. There has also been increasing collaboration between the African Union Commission and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in developing a common African position on the global climate change negotiations that were held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

29. NPCA has been coordinating efforts to develop a continental climate change mitigation and adaptation framework, building on the recommendations of the thirteenth African Union Summit, under the theme "Investing in Agriculture for

Economic Growth and Food Security", and sub-theme A, "Climate change: opportunities for enhanced investments and growth of African agriculture". The framework will be instrumental in guiding the diagnosis, design and implementation of agriculture-based climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes.

30. In partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the OECD/Africa Partnership Forum support unit, NPCA prepared a brief on climate change and carbon finance, which was shared with the African negotiators with a view to raising their awareness and building their capacity for effective participation in Copenhagen and for follow-up negotiations. NPCA was also actively engaged with several key partners, including with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Foundation and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, in order to mobilize financial resources, technical assistance and collaborative assistance in the implementation of the environment programme. A calendar for subregional consultative meetings has been approved by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and consultations began in February 2010.

31. In August 2009, NPCA, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, organized a workshop that culminated in the creation of an African network of climate change scientists. The network will facilitate the work of the African negotiators by strengthening the common African position on climate change negotiations. NPCA is now facilitating the mobilization of Governments, at the national level, to support the common African position and advocate the development and implementation of a global and comprehensive post-2012 climate change agreement.

32. NPCA has also called on development partners to enhance their efforts to implement the NEPAD Tourism Action Plan. A top priority of that initiative is the creation of and support for a platform to expand tourism in Africa through increased policy dialogue and coordination of the various actors involved. In this regard, a conference of African Ministers in charge of tourism was held in South Africa in February 2010.

F. Information and communications technology

33. Over the past year, the NEPAD e-Africa Commission achieved major progress with respect to the support and implementation of the NEPAD information and communications technology agenda through the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative.

34. The NEPAD e-Schools Demonstration Project, in collaboration with Governments and consortia of private-sector companies and non-governmental organizations, has witnessed the set-up of 100 NEPAD e-Schools in 16 participating African countries, namely, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Lesotho, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. Monitoring and evaluation activities have revealed a need to mobilize local partnerships to sustain the schools. Regarding the implementation of the e-school business plan, project proposals have been prepared by the e-school programme in order to establish national implementing agencies. In addition, a continental matrix of teacher competencies for information and communications technology in education and the e-schools' educational content were developed and

considered during the e-learning Africa Conference held in Zambia in May 2010. To overcome the challenge of providing broadband connectivity in rural areas, the African satellite company RASCOM agreed to develop a continental satellite network to provide Internet connectivity for rural and remote schools.

35. At the policy and regulatory level, the NEPAD e-Africa Commission organized stakeholders' consultations across the continent aimed at amending the Kigali Protocol to facilitate the implementation of the NEPAD network. Such workshops were held for the ECOWAS and the ECCAS regions in Nigeria, in March 2010, and in Chad, in April 2010, respectively. In June 2010, the second annual ministerial commission meeting of the NEPAD e-Africa Commission, held in Senegal, adopted a resolution aimed at facilitating the merger of the governance structures for information and communications technology in the NEPAD Agency and the African Union Commission. This meeting also urged African ministers to prioritize the provision of broadband connectivity to secondary schools and to include this issue in the policies and plans of the respective ministries.

36. The information and communications technology agenda in Africa received strong support from the African Union Heads of State and Government during their fourteenth Summit, held in February 2010. Declarations and decisions were adopted with the aim of prioritizing the information and communications technology sector in development programmes. Ongoing activities aimed at the implementation of the Reference Framework for Harmonization of Telecommunication and ICT Policies and Regulation in Africa, as well as the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy, were encouraged. The Summit called for an African digital agenda identifying the main stages of a process culminating in the establishment of a harmonized African information and communications technology market by 2020.

G. Science and technology

37. Over the review period, NPCA made further progress in the implementation of the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action. Significant achievements were made in the implementation of the following programmes: (a) the African Biosciences Initiative and the newly established African Biosafety Network of Expertise; (b) strengthening pharmaceutical innovation in Africa; (c) mobilizing support for harmonizing drug registration in Africa by improving access to priority medicines; (d) African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative; (e) building a sustainable energy base; and (f) securing and sustaining water: building an African network of centres of excellence in water sciences and development.

38. In July 2009, a grant agreement of $10.4 million was finalized with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support the implementation of the African Biosafety Network of Expertise. The Technical Advisory Committee of the NEPAD African Biosafety Network of Expertise held its inception meeting in February 2010 in the United Republic of Tanzania and approved its workplan for 2010, which is aimed at providing a range of services to regulators, including science-based biosafety information through a web portal, training programmes and expert consultations. The Committee acknowledged the contribution made by the Government of Burkina Faso in adopting the Network's host country agreement and

commended the Network team's efforts in establishing the nodal office in Burkina Faso in April 2010.

39. The Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, at its most recent meeting, held in Burundi in June 2009, commended the contribution being made by the NEPAD science and technology sector through its various programmes. Draft summary project proposals from the regional economic communities were prepared and discussed in detail in order to ensure that their needs were well addressed. NPCA is now working with universities and research institutions in all African subregions to develop sound project implementation plans and improve the design of the projects so that they can add value to the regions.

40. NPCA is working with the Council on Health Research for Development to start development of a database to be used by member States to compile their science, technology and innovation statistics. The software, HRweb, will be user-friendly, so that the national databases to be developed can be used by scientists, policymakers and the general public. Moreover, NPCA is working with the Canadian International Development Agency to provide support to the regional biosciences networks. With respect to the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative, NPCA has been working with member countries to develop and update internationally comparable science, technology and innovation indicators.

H. Gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and civil society participation

41. Gender mainstreaming in all development plans, strategies and projects remains a key priority for NEPAD. A cornerstone of NEPAD activities with regard to the empowerment of women is the NEPAD Spanish Fund for African Women Empowerment. Established in 2007, it is aimed at empowering African women by providing them with the financial resources needed to unlock their economic potential, promote economic growth, fight poverty, create wealth and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development. The Fund provides grants to support projects that are aimed at empowering African women and promoting gender equality. Since its establishment, it has funded 45 projects, of which 27 are operational and 18 are completed. The Fund was reviewed during the eighth Africa Regional Conference on Women (Beijing + 15), held in the Gambia in November 2009. The Ministerial meeting, after hearing about the implementation of the various projects, recommended that the Fund should remain within NPCA. In addition, the Conference recommended the establishment of a Fund for African Women, which was endorsed by the fourteenth African Union Summit in February 2010, in the context of the Decade of the African Woman, which will span the years 2010 to 2020. The Fund is a demonstration of Africa's commitment to supporting and promoting the socio-economic status of women on the continent.

42. NPCA is in the process of creating a multisectoral working group on gender that will address gender gaps in all sector initiatives, in cooperation with the NEPAD gender task force and with the support of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). Regarding the implementation of the Business Incubation for African Women Entrepreneurs project, NPCA, in collaboration with

COMESA and ECOWAS, is piloting a two-year phase, with an allocation of €1 million from the Spanish Fund for these two projects. The pilot projects will develop, test and apply practical business incubation methods that can boost the incomes and skills of women who run small enterprises in the areas of handcrafts, agro-processing and information and communications technology. If successful, the project will be scaled up to the other three regional economic communities.

I. African Peer Review Mechanism

43. The African Peer Review Mechanism continues to strengthen its position as an instrument for advancing good governance in Africa. According to the latest information provided by its secretariat, as of the end of June 2010, 29 countries had joined the Mechanism, namely: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. Cape Verde, which formally expressed its intention to accede in July 2009, will become the thirtieth member country of the Mechanism once it finalizes the accession formalities by signing the memorandum of understanding.

44. Steady progress has been registered in the peer review process. As of the end of June 2010, 12 countries had been peer-reviewed by the African Peer Review Forum, namely, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda. In addition, Mauritius and Ethiopia received country review missions in the second half of 2009. Their reports were reviewed at the most recent Forum, held in July 2010. The United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia are also quite advanced in terms of their processes. The country review mission for the United Republic of Tanzania, scheduled for the first half of 2010, was put on hold owing to the fact that elections are to be held in the country later in 2010. Zambia is currently finalizing its self-assessment report. The submission of that report to the African Peer Review panel will pave the way for the fielding of the review mission. Thirteen countries have yet to formally launch their African Peer Review Mechanism process.

45. The countries reviewed have also made progress in the implementation of their respective national programmes of action arising from the review process. To that end, the twelfth Summit of the African Peer Review Forum, held in Addis Ababa in January 2010, considered progress reports on the implementation of the national programmes of action of Uganda and Burkina Faso. Second-cycle reviews are also due for Algeria, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa.

46. The African Peer Review Mechanism has since its inception continued to receive support from its three strategic partners, AfDB, ECA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). That support has included participation in country review missions and other forms of technical and financial assistance. In this regard, AfDB has in the current period provided a grant to support the project aimed at revising and improving tools and processes so as to streamline and fast-track the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism. Two technical meetings on this project have been held so far, in South Africa and Ethiopia, respectively. ECA has also been instrumental in organizing workshops to enhance

the role and effective participation of African parliamentarians in the Mechanism process and other capacity-building initiatives in the course of 2010. The UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa manages the trust fund for the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

III. Response of the international community: building on the momentum of international support for Africa's development

47. The world economy is still recovering from the worst recession since the Great Depression. As the global recovery remains fragile and the medium-term impact of the crisis on human development is expected to be severe in a number of African countries, developed countries should deliver on the historic promises they made at the 2005 Gleneagles summit of the Group of Eight and give Africa the opportunity to effectively carry the NEPAD vision forward. Even though total aid to Africa has risen, a sustained increase in aid must remain a priority in order to prevent the crisis from seriously damaging development prospects and to keep alive the hope of halving poverty by 2015.

48. Against this background, at the Group of Eight Summit held in Canada in June 2010, the G-8 reaffirmed their commitments, including on official development assistance (ODA) and enhancing aid effectiveness, and submitted their first accountability report, which emphasized regular, clear and transparent reporting on the progress made in implementing commitments and called for the G-8 to continue to exercise strong leadership in responding to global development challenges. The G-8 also launched the Muskoka Initiative, a comprehensive and integrated approach to accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals on child mortality and maternal health, and made a commitment to mobilize $5 billion in additional funding for disbursement over the next five years.

49. In order to galvanize support for the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group, which brings together eight major multilateral institutions[1] working on development in Africa, in July 2008 launched a series of recommendations in five fundamental areas that are critical to Africa's development, namely: (a) agriculture and food security; (b) education; (c) health; (d) infrastructure and trade facilitation; and (e) statistical systems. The Group recently conducted a progress review on implementation of the recommendations. Its findings revealed that progress has been made and that the Millennium Development Goals remain achievable if concerted, targeted efforts are made by all stakeholders; however, many policy, implementation and financing gaps remain. These findings, along with the need to address the negative implications of the recent global economic crisis for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, have led the Group to advocate a comprehensive Africa plan of action on the Millennium Development Goals and better resource mobilization through, inter alia, the organizing of donor round tables or consultative meetings at both the global and national levels.

[1] The Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group comprises the following institutional members: ECA, AfDB, the African Union Commission, the European Commission, the Islamic Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and OECD.

A. Official development assistance

50. According to OECD, total ODA from all donors reached $129 billion, and total ODA to Africa rose by 7 per cent in real terms, from $39.1 billion in 2007 to $44 billion in 2008 (see fig. I).[2] ODA net of debt relief rose from $35.4 billion to $42 billion between 2006 and 2008, representing a cumulative increase of 30 per cent in real terms. Despite that increase, ODA to Africa is falling short of the targets set. Since 2004, Africa has received between 32 and 35 per cent of the total increase in ODA, well below the 50 per cent increase committed to in Gleneagles. Africa is likely to get only about $12 billion of the $25 billion increase envisaged at Gleneagles, owing in large part to lower-than-expected disbursements on the part of major donors of ODA to Africa.

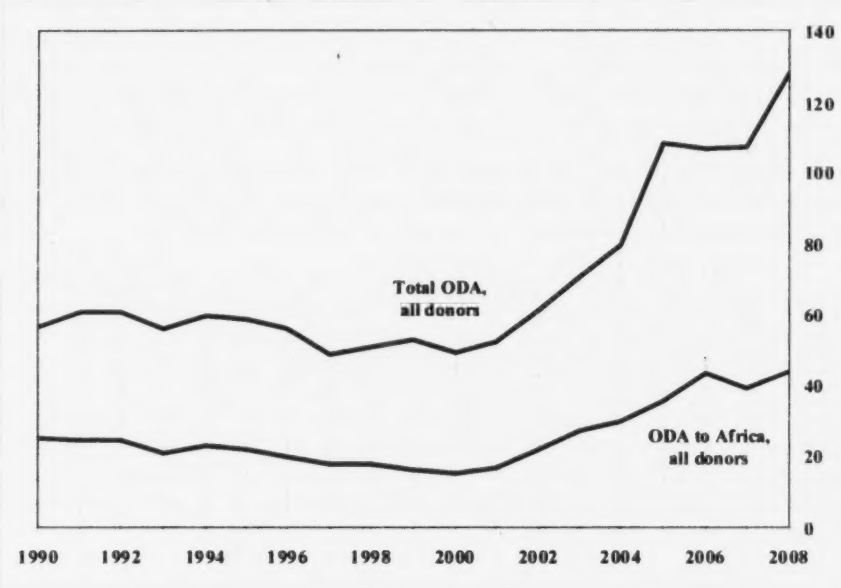
51. With respect to aid effectiveness, some progress has been made towards reaching the targets set for 2010 in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. A recent OECD survey indicated that progress has been made globally as concerns the untying of aid, the increased use of country systems and coordination on technical cooperation, but highlights continuing concerns relating to lack of predictability, mutual accountability, transparency and fragmentation of aid. To date, nine OECD-Development Assistance Committee countries have taken steps to meet the 2010 implementation deadline of the Paris Declaration and to implement the Accra Agenda for Action[3] commitments. In addition, 14 of the 24 DAC members have developed action plans for implementing the Agenda.

52. However, the efforts of some of those donors lag behind their commitments to making aid country-owned and managed. In order to catalyse results in this area, donors will need to transition from a narrow focus on aid management and delivery to a more inclusive and outcome-oriented approach to development effectiveness that is based on the centrality of development, poverty reduction, gender equality, social justice and environmental sustainability. Changes are required in the aid architecture to ensure inclusiveness and legitimacy as well as to redress the power imbalances in donor-recipient relations.

[2] At the time of the finalization of the present report, 2009 data on ODA to Africa were not available.

[3] A/63/539, annex.

Figure I
Total official development assistance from all donors
Billions of current United States dollars)



Source: Based on OECD/Development Assistance Committee online database 2010.

B. Debt relief

53. Efforts to relieve the debt burden of African countries have continued both within the framework of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI), as well as at a bilateral level.

54. As at 1 July 2010, 23 African countries had reached completion point and received the full debt relief committed to under the HIPC and MDRI initiatives (see table 1). In January 2010, the Congo reached completion point under the HIPC Initiative and was granted $1.9 billion of debt relief under HIPC and $201.3 million of debt relief under MDRI. The Paris Club bilateral creditors are expected to provide additional debt relief in the amount of $1.4 billion.

55. Also, on 1 July 2010 the Democratic Republic of the Congo was granted $12.3 billion in debt relief, as it had reached completion point. Debt service savings are expected to total $12.3 billion, which includes $11.1 billion under HIPC and $1.2 billion under MDRI. Debt relief from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will total $491 million, and debt relief from the International Development Association of the World Bank will amount to $1.8 million, with the remainder expected to come from bilateral and commercial creditors.

56. Six countries are receiving interim debt relief in the phase between decision point and completion point. Furthermore, four African countries are eligible for HIPC, but have not yet reached decision point.

Table 1
Current and potential beneficiaries of HIPC and MDRI

Status	*Countries*
23 post-completion-point countries	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia
6 post-decision-point countries	Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Togo
4 pre-decision-point countries	Comoros, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan

Source: IMF, as at July 2010.

57. However, despite the good progress made in terms of debt relief, the global economic crisis has had an overall negative effect on debt levels on the continent. The downturn in gross domestic product, exports and Government revenues all had an adverse impact on countries' financial position: debt service as a percentage of export earnings consequently increased from 12.1 per cent in 2008 to 15.9 per cent in 2009 in Africa. According to IMF estimates, five African countries — four of them post-completion-point countries — that have so far been classified as moderate-risk countries in terms of debt sustainability could face increased vulnerability as a result of the crisis. The crisis thus threatens to undermine the improvements achieved in recent years in countries' debt sustainability.

C. Foreign direct investment

58. Foreign direct investment inflows to Africa reached a historic high of $88 billion in 2008, the year for which the most up-to-date figures are available. However, the global economic crisis caused a massive slowdown of growth in the world economy and had a dramatic impact on foreign direct investment in Africa as well. According to preliminary estimates by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, foreign direct investment to Africa decreased by more than 36 per cent in 2009, to $56 billion. The most vulnerable least developed countries were hardest hit by the crisis owing to the decline in demand for the commodities that represent their major exports. An improving world economy is expected to lead to a modest recovery of foreign direct investment flows in 2010, but the overall outlook remains fragile.

59. The regional distribution of foreign direct investment flows to Africa remains relatively stable, with North African countries, resource-rich sub-Saharan African countries such as Nigeria and Angola, and South Africa being the top recipients of such inflows. In terms of the sectoral distribution of foreign direct investment, the primary sector continues to receive the majority of the investment. However, a notable increase in cross-border mergers and acquisitions in manufacturing was registered, particularly in Egypt and South Africa. Foreign direct investment into services grew as well. The increasing diversification of investment flows bodes well for the recovery expected in 2010 and beyond. Among African least developed countries, investment remains overwhelmingly concentrated in natural-resource-rich countries. The top recipients among African least developed countries in 2008 were Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Madagascar and the Sudan.

60. Despite the numerous challenges that arose from the global crisis, African countries continued to improve their investment environment to foster foreign direct investment and to accelerate economic growth and development. Countries' ongoing efforts to improve the investment climate are more noticeable. The *Doing Business 2010* report of the World Bank lists Rwanda as the number-one reformer worldwide in doing business, and two other African countries, Egypt and Liberia, among the top 10. However, despite their efforts, many African countries need to further improve their business climate to become a more attractive destination for foreign direct investment.

61. NPCA is continuing its efforts to foster such an improvement in Africa's investment climate. The NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative held its annual ministerial meeting and expert round table in South Africa in November 2009. Focusing on mobilizing resources against the global economic crisis and on private investment in energy infrastructure, African ministers and high-level representatives from business and civil society discussed existing challenges for private-sector investment, called for reforms in the areas of taxation, financial markets and energy, and highlighted successful existing national and regional initiatives in the area of resource mobilization and energy.

D. Trade

62. Despite the fact that, at the seventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), held in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December 2009, Ministers reiterated the importance of trade for economic recovery and poverty alleviation in developing countries, very little progress was made in the Doha round of WTO trade negotiations towards reaching an agreement on issues affecting Africa, including agricultural market access and a greater reduction in trade-distorting agricultural subsidies.

63. Only marginal progress was made in 2009 in negotiations on economic partnership agreements. In June 2009, the African Ministers of Trade endorsed a template on economic partnership agreements prepared jointly by the African Union Commission and ECA as a guide for the regional economic communities in their coordination of the partnership negotiations. African regions negotiating full economic partnership agreements with the European Commission will therefore use that template, in conformity with the decision of the African Union Heads of State

and Government. At the ministerial meeting, a timetable that would facilitate the conclusion of a regional agreement by October 2009 was agreed. Efforts are also under way in the negotiations on the COMESA-Eastern African Community-SADC tripartite process. The Ministers of trade and finance of those regions met in April 2010 to agree on a way forward in the process. It was decided that the Tripartite Free Trade Area would be finalized by June 2011 and ready for signature by July 2011.

64. The second global review of the Aid for Trade initiative was conducted in Geneva in July 2009, where issues were raised on how best to optimize the initiative. Following the review, African countries agreed to be more involved in the determination of the priority areas of focus, through monitoring by the WTO Committee on Trade and Development. The focus would be on encouraging developed members of WTO to honour their commitments under the Aid for Trade initiative and to make new and additional commitments; promoting greater ownership of the initiative in developing countries; strengthening its regional dimension; placing greater emphasis on the implementation of Aid for Trade projects; further refining evaluation and monitoring mechanisms; and emphasizing the tracking of the impact of the initiative.

E. South-South cooperation

65. Over the years, South-South cooperation has become an important complement to North-South cooperation. In particular, South-South flows of finance, trade and development assistance, including knowledge- and experience-sharing, training, technology transfers, in-kind contributions, cost-sharing arrangements, soft loans and other innovations, continued to be important for the economic growth of African countries.

66. During the period under review, several high-level events were held that promoted the role of South-South cooperation in the advancement of development and capacity-building. A High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was held in Kenya in December 2009. While celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the Conference reiterated the need to further strengthen and reinvigorate South-South cooperation as an additional mechanism for enhancing growth and addressing the development challenges of developing countries. In addition, a high-level event on South-South cooperation and capacity development was held in Colombia in March 2010. The Bogota statement adopted at that event emphasized the links between South-South cooperation and capacity development within the context of aid effectiveness. Participants also called for a more inclusive and demand-driven approach to South-South cooperation, transparency and the fostering of mutual learning among southern practitioners. The Africa-wide NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework was acknowledged as an innovative regional tool. Efforts were made to institutionalize activities related to this type of cooperation.

67. In the past year, Africa has continued to develop its strategic partnerships. In particular, China committed itself to strengthening and deepening its cooperation with Africa for 2009-2012 at the fourth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, held in Egypt in November 2009. China pledged to

double its assistance to Africa in the framework of eight new measures focusing on climate change, science and technology, trade, agriculture, medical care and health, human resources development, and cultural exchanges. The assistance includes, inter alia, the provision of $10 billion in preferential loans, debt cancellation, reduction of trade tariffs, and medical equipment and antimalarial materials. As at 1 July 2010, China had announced duty-free access to 60 per cent of imports from 26 of Africa's least developed countries.

68. The India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation facilitated South-South cooperation and expanded South-South partnerships. With each of the three countries contributing $1 million every year, the Facility was able to support a number of results-oriented initiatives in Africa that focused on the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, the Republic of Korea strengthened its partnership with Africa during the second Korea-Africa Forum, held in Seoul in November 2009, by committing to doubling its ODA by 2012 and focusing its intervention on capacity enhancement through training, education, health, human resources, technology transfer, and rural and agricultural development. The partnership will operate within the Framework for Korea-Africa Development Cooperation 2009-2012 and will include a climate change component through the Korea-Africa Green Growth Initiative 2009-2012.

69. In September 2009, Africa and South America fostered their cooperation during the Second Africa-South America (ASA) Summit, held in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Key steps were taken towards the institutionalization of the partnership with the establishment of the ASA pro-tempore secretariat and the Presidential Committee responsible for developing the ASA strategic plan.

IV. Support provided by the United Nations system

70. The United Nations system makes an important contribution as one of the main pillars of international support for the implementation of NEPAD. Support by the entities of the United Nations system at the regional, subregional and national levels takes a variety of forms, ranging from technical assistance, capacity-building and funding to advocacy and normative work. The most recent annual report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Committee for Programme and Coordination on United Nations system support for NEPAD (E/AC.51/2010/3) contains detailed information on the nature and scope of the support provided by the United Nations system during the past year.

A. Strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme and the cluster system

71. In the past year, additional progress has been made in strengthening the support provided by the United Nations system to the African Union and its NEPAD programme.

72. The Regional Coordination Mechanism process has gained momentum. The past year has seen enhanced coordination on the part of United Nations agencies and

programmes in support of Africa's development at the regional and subregional levels; strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and African regional organizations; and increased institutional support for the African Union Commission and NPCA. During the past 12 months, several clusters met more frequently, with more meetings organized at the Commission. As of March 2010, three clusters had established business plans to embark on inter-agency joint programming and joint implementation of specific projects.

73. The tenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, held in November 2009, was chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and attended by 193 participants. The meeting resulted in key recommendations aimed at further strengthening cooperation and coordination among United Nations system entities and African regional and subregional organizations. The meeting also recommended the establishment of a subregional coordination mechanism so as to provide a link between regional-level activities and country-level priorities, actions and implementation, as well as respond to the needs of the regional economic communities.

74. Furthermore, the meeting agreed that ECA, the United Nations Liaison Office and the African Union Commission should jointly undertake the review of the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union and highlighted the potential role of the review in further popularizing the programme at the level of the United Nations, the African Union and the regional economic communities.

75. Following the recommendation of the Regional Coordination Mechanism meeting held in November 2009 to mainstream communications throughout the cluster system, four of the nine main clusters and 4 of 13 subclusters appointed a communication focal point. The first brainstorming workshop of the communications focal points was organized by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and held in Senegal in June 2010. It was agreed that the Office would take the lead in establishing a system for information-gathering and dissemination to support the production and circulation of a quarterly NPCA newsletter highlighting success stories relating to cluster activities of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in support of African Union priorities.

76. The Inter-Agency Task Force on Africa, convened by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa at Headquarters, has continued to provide an effective framework for the agencies of the United Nations system to share expertise and experience. In particular, the Task Force has been active in supporting the Office in the preparation of a proposal for an improved monitoring mechanism to review and track the implementation of the commitments made in support of Africa's development, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/1 as a follow-up to the High-level Meeting of the Assembly on Africa's Development Needs, held in September 2008. The Inter-Agency Task Force has also provided inputs and suggestions for the preparation of the comprehensive review of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318).

B. Millennium Villages

77. The Millennium Villages Project, currently in its fourth year of operation, is working to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Millennium

Development Goals at 14 sites in 10 sub-Saharan African countries, covering roughly 500,000 people. Its integrated development model draws together proven interventions in the areas of agriculture, infrastructure, education and health. So far, average harvests have tripled, and the rate of chronic under-nutrition in children under age 2 has been reduced by one third. School meal programmes have been established in all countries.

78. More accessible and better-staffed local clinics, along with a community health worker system, have led to a fourfold increase in access to HIV testing during pregnancy, with institutional delivery rates improving by an average of 25 per cent. At the same time, more than 80 per cent of children at the sites have been immunized against measles and received vitamin A supplements in the past six months. Moreover, malaria prevalence has been reduced by over 60 per cent. The number of people with access to clean water has tripled, and access to improved sanitation has increased sixfold.

79. The lessons learned from the project are fuelling discussion at the national level. In Mali and Nigeria Governments have developed national Millennium Development Goal scale-up initiatives based on the Millennium Villages experiences, while in Ghana, Malawi and Uganda, the results of the project have informed the general discussion on the Millennium Development Goals within the Governments. The Millennium Villages have shown that the Goals can be achieved through targeted, low-cost interventions.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

80. **Good progress has been recorded in the implementation of NEPAD, in moving forward the African Peer Review Mechanism, and in increasing ODA to Africa. The integration of the newly established NPCA into the African Union Commission's structures and processes has generated new momentum in the implementation of NEPAD priority activities. With this new institutional dynamic, African countries should continue to effectively implement the NEPAD projects and programmes they have already adopted. In particular, development partners should scale up their financial and technical assistance to Africa in order to increase the potential of African countries to reach the Millennium Development Goals. The international community should ensure that multilateral trade agreements prioritize Africa's needs and incorporate development provisions.**

81. **In particular, with the establishment of NPCA, the time is right for all stakeholders involved in the implementation of NEPAD projects to design a coordinated and comprehensive continent-wide communications and outreach strategy. The aim is to enhance, at the country, regional, continental and international levels, public awareness of the vision, objectives and goals of NEPAD.**

82. **As we are entering a new phase in the implementation of the NEPAD Programme following the establishment of NPCA, African countries should strengthen the institutional capacity of the African Union Commission and NPCA by providing them with adequate human and financial resources.**

83. With this new momentum, African countries should enhance the capacity of the regional economic communities as vehicles for the implementation of NEPAD regional projects and provide them with the necessary financial and human resources. Since the NEPAD priorities are fully consistent with the Millennium Development Goals, African countries need to take further steps to integrate them into national development strategies and to engage fully in the NEPAD implementation process.

84. Given the important role of agriculture in Africa's development and in the reduction of poverty and food insecurity, African countries and their development partners should implement the CAADP compacts and prioritize investment in agriculture. African countries should also increase their spending on agricultural and rural development to 10 per cent of public expenditure, in line with the Maputo Declaration, so as to double agricultural yields, accelerate economic growth to 6 per cent and combat hunger and food insecurity.

85. Efforts must be made by African countries and their development partners to support African women, who play a key role in the agricultural sector, by improving their access to education, farming land, fertilizers, credit and markets, and by increasing their participation in decision-making processes, as the continent strives to achieve its sustainable development priorities, including the Millennium Development Goals.

86. Since the private sector is an important stakeholder in the implementation of NEPAD and in reaching the Millennium Development Goals, developed countries and multilateral development agencies should strengthen their technical cooperation with NPCA and African countries by assisting them in the formulation of country-specific strategies for improving investment climates.

87. In line with the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General for the Millennium Development Goals summit (A/64/665), development partners should fulfil existing commitments so as to increase the quantity and improve the effectiveness of development assistance and take bold steps to ensure the successful conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations with development dimensions. Development partners also need to increase their policy coherence for development so that assistance in one area is not undercut by actions in other areas.

88. Commitments by donor countries to mobilize additional resources for climate change should be implemented, either through a Green Fund or related initiatives. The momentum generated by the formulation in Copenhagen of a common African position must be strengthened, especially regarding the management and disbursement of funds.

United Nations A/65/168

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 July 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Item 27 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Social development: implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Follow-up to the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 64/135 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. The report provides an overview of discussions held by the Commission for Social Development during its forty-eighth session on the priority theme "Social integration". It also highlights the deliberations of the Commission with regard to the fifteenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development and the policy responses on employment and the social consequences of the financial and economic crises, including its gender dimension. It concludes with recommendations arising from the discussions of the Commission.

* A/65/150.

10-46297 (E) 120810

Please recycle

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Review of the substantive discussions of the Commission for Social Development at its forty-eighth session	4
	A. Social integration	4
	B. Fifteenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development	9
	C. Social consequences of the financial and economic crises and policy responses	11
III.	Conclusions and recommendations	14

I. Introduction

1. In resolution 64/135, the General Assembly reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Commission for Social Development for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. In accordance with that mandate, the Commission for Social Development adopted social integration as the priority theme for discussion at its 2009-2010 review and policy sessions.

2. At the World Summit, held in Copenhagen in 1995, Member States formulated a comprehensive vision of social development, aimed at creating a society for all. Social integration was an essential part of that vision, seen as a process of building values and institutions indispensable for the creation of an inclusive society in which all can exercise their rights and responsibilities.

3. Following the World Summit, the Commission for Social Development discussed social integration at its thirty-sixth session in February 1998 and formulated agreed conclusions on promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons. In its subsequent sessions, the Commission mainly looked at social integration issues from the perspective of group-specific mandates elaborated following the Summit. Social integration was put back on the agenda of the Commission in 2009.

4. The focus of the Commission at its 2009-2010 review and policy sessions on the promotion of social integration, taking into account the interlinkages among the three development pillars of social integration, poverty eradication and full employment, and decent work for all offered a valuable opportunity to set a new course of action for advancing social integration at the national and international levels. At the conclusion of the policy session, held in February 2010, the Commission adopted the first resolution on promoting social integration since the 1995 Summit.

5. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission held a high-level panel discussion to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development. Echoing the concerns expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/135, the Commission discussed the impact on social development of the world financial and economic crisis, and continuing food insecurity and climate change. It focused on the policy responses on employment and the social consequences of the financial and economic crises, including its gender dimension, under the item on emerging issues.

6. The present report outlines the main points of the policy discussion of the Commission on social integration, and highlights the issues raised during the high-level panel discussion on the fifteenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development. The report also summarizes the Commission's discussion of the social consequences of the financial and economic crises, and concludes with a set of recommendations on advancing social integration.

II. Review of the substantive discussions of the Commission for Social Development at its forty-eighth session

A. Social integration

7. In the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[1] social integration was recognized as both a goal and an overall framework to advance social development and social policymaking. Member States made a commitment to promote social integration through fostering inclusive societies that are stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful, just and tolerant, and that respect diversity, equality of opportunity and the participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons. This commitment, however, remains elusive and difficult to attain as the complex nature of the social integration concept renders it difficult to operationalize and translate it into policy-oriented actions.

8. Social integration policies and programmes have mainly focused on the advancement of a number of social groups, such as older persons, youth, persons with disabilities and indigenous people. For the most part, however, no overall framework for advancing social integration has been developed at the national or international level.

9. Moreover, although long-held assumptions that economic growth and market expansion will automatically lead to advancing social development for all have been disproved, little has been done to promote inclusive economic growth. Such growth, although necessary for social development in general and social integration in particular, will not bring about social progress and more cohesive societies if it is not accompanied by policies aimed at removing the social, cultural and political barriers that prevent many groups and individuals from sharing in its benefits.

10. In addition, significant obstacles to social integration remain widespread and pervasive. In developing countries, poverty, underemployment and lack of access to basic services, coupled with inequality, marginalization, conflict, instability and discrimination, continue to impede progress towards social integration. In many developed countries, sociodemographic changes, combined with the rising inequality and marginalization of many groups, including migrants, continue to prevent the achievement of social integration.

11. Poverty continues to be a major obstacle to social integration. Often equated with exclusion, poverty goes beyond the lack of adequate income and encompasses issues of opportunities, empowerment, capabilities and security. People living in poverty are truly excluded from full participation in society.

12. Unemployment remains a major challenge to the social integration of many individuals and groups. Lack or loss of a job often means long-term unemployment, poverty and social exclusion. Unemployed individuals not only lose a source of income but also the basis for active social interaction, participation and skills development.

13. Discrimination continues to be the primary impediment to social integration and full participation in the life of a society in which individuals and groups are

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

denied their human rights and lack access to basic services provided by the State. Gender discrimination continues to be one of the most pervasive and prevalent forms of institutionalized exclusion and inequality. Underrepresentation of women at the political, social and economic levels of decision-making in many societies undermines efforts to create a society for all as well.

Policies for the promotion of social integration: general principles

14. Social integration polices and strategies have to be tailored to address the challenges and obstacles specific to each country. However, a few general principles do apply. Fundamental among them is the realization that advancing social integration goes beyond group-specific mandates and should be mainstreamed in overall policymaking.

15. Also critical is the adoption of a coherent approach to economic and social policymaking. Current economic policies are often implemented with a disregard for their social consequences, resulting in greater social disparities and increasing inequality.

16. Promotion of social integration further rests on embracing inclusive, participatory and accountable policymaking. Governments should encourage and facilitate the active engagement of communities and social groups in the design, monitoring and implementing of social integration policies. Promoting collaboration among all stakeholders is essential. Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and individuals should be able to express their needs and concerns, and their perspectives must be reflected in all stages of development strategies.

17. Poverty reduction and social integration require investment in human capital development, especially in education and health. In this regard, it is important to enhance the quality of education and not just focus on increasing the enrolment rate.

18. Labour market and decent work policies play a critical role in achieving social inclusion through the promotion of non-discrimination in employment, equality of treatment, provision of education and training, and the inclusion in labour markets of groups at risk of discrimination. More emphasis on the acquisition of job and life skills, as well as the updating of those skills throughout the life cycle, is needed. Also critical to social integration and poverty eradication is social protection, which contributes to reducing poverty and enhancing equity and cohesion in society.

19. Social integration goes hand in hand with advancing human rights, achieving participation, transparency and accountability in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies. It also requires institutional capacity-building, development of evaluation frameworks and creation of strong partnerships.

Human rights framework

20. Social integration lies at the core of human development, which may be defined as the progressive realization of people's social, civil, political, economic and cultural rights. Development is about expanding people's choices, freedoms and capabilities, so that they can fully participate in all aspects of the life of a society and influence the decisions that affect their lives.

21. Although most societies created legal frameworks that uphold the basic premise of equality and non-discrimination, discriminatory attitudes often prevail

and are difficult to eliminate. Consequently, special anti-discriminatory measures may be needed to ensure equality for marginalized individuals and social groups, depending on the national context.

22. It is especially important to undertake efforts to ensure equality of opportunity for those who are excluded, disadvantaged or vulnerable, and to remove not only the legal but also the social, economic, cultural and political barriers to their participation. Importantly, special measures to fight discrimination not only advance social integration but also contribute to the success of poverty eradication efforts, helping those who suffer from discrimination to become fully productive citizens.

23. A society must be equipped with institutional mechanisms that will accommodate differences, respect diversity, respect the principle of equality, allow participation and provide opportunities for all people, regardless of their backgrounds. To help with this task, most countries have established national human rights institutions, such as human rights commissions and ombudsmen. They often protect the rights of ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, refugees, women or children and may have a broader mandate of training and education in human rights. Policies should include the strengthening of such institutions.

24. Special emphasis on civic education is needed so that citizens are informed of their rights and responsibilities. Innovative ways to create opportunities for the meaningful engagement of members of different communities in order to promote dialogue and mutual understanding among diverse members of societies are of special importance as well.

25. To advance gender equality, special measures to increase women's participation in the political life of countries, such as the establishment of quotas for women in parliament, may contribute to the greater social inclusion of women. In several countries, the representation of women in decision-making bodies is already a key measure of social integration. Similarly, such positive discrimination may help other marginalized groups. Some countries pursue affirmative action policies for indigenous peoples or ethnic minorities, for instance, in connection with access to education and employment. Such measures may be necessary to level out historical injustices and contribute to social integration.

Participation, transparency and accountability

26. Achieving the goal of social integration and inclusion requires the broad-based participation and engagement of diverse groups. Participation goes beyond mere representation and consultation to embrace active voices in decision-making and the creation of an environment conducive to equal partnership among all social actors, in particular socially excluded or disadvantaged groups and individuals. It also fosters collaboration and promotes consensus-building and solidarity. Encouraging tolerance for diversity and mutual respect while discouraging negative discrimination are sine qua non for participation. To remove the barriers that prevent various groups from fully participating in society, it is necessary to view their respective circumstances.

27. Another critical aspect of participation and social inclusion is to encourage civic engagement by democratizing access to public information and engaging marginalized groups in public, parliamentary and civil society forums. Transparency and participation are mutually reinforcing.

28. Transparent and accountable policymaking requires broad-based participation. Thus, institutions and mechanisms that promote people's active participation should be put in place to ensure transparent and accountable monitoring and evaluation. This includes the development of more effective and participatory monitoring processes to identify the forms and drivers of exclusion. Data gathering of quantitative and qualitative indicators of inclusion could lead to greater identification and monitoring of the individuals and communities vulnerable to exclusion. This would also contribute to institutional strengthening and enhancing capacity to develop inclusive policy and monitor outcomes.

Institutional capacity-building, evaluation frameworks and partnerships

29. The Copenhagen Programme of Action called for the creation of social institutions and mechanisms which are accessible to people and responsive to their needs. Such institutions and mechanisms should empower the local governance structure and communities and encourage the building of partnerships between Government and local stakeholders. National and local capacity-building also consists of the compilation of good practices, information-sharing, developing financial capability, creating a knowledge base and strengthening coordination across local, national, regional and international agencies.

30. Governments should identify clear social inclusion objectives and develop concrete evaluation frameworks for their implementation. Specific social inclusion benchmarks and indicators are needed to effectively monitor policies, assess their outcomes and redirect policies when necessary. Monitoring and reporting, on a regular basis, on the progress made and shortcomings in respect of specific policies, are important for enhancing transparency and accountability.

31. The gap between policy and practice has often been magnified by inadequate technical skills. Further attention should be paid to the training of government officials at the national and local levels with a view to strengthening their capacity to design and implement, as well as monitor and evaluate, effective strategies for social inclusion.

32. Of equal importance is community capacity-building which should be recognized as a principal strategy for stimulating local participation and improving the engagement of local communities eager to resolve local problems and devise appropriate solutions. Capacity-building programmes should be designed to reach women, youth, older persons, people living in poverty, and other disadvantaged and marginalized populations in order to assist in skills building.

33. While the responsibility and coordinated initiatives to promote social integration lie with national Governments, advancing social integration at the local level requires sustained, cooperative action and true partnerships among key stakeholders, including social partners, civil society, non-profit entities and the private sector. Efforts should be made to create a common vision for social integration among all stakeholders in order to ensure broad-based ownership of national development agendas.

34. Global cooperation for social integration entails the exchange of views and sharing of information on good policies and practices for mainstreaming social inclusion in social and economic policies at the national, regional and international levels. The United Nations should facilitate such exchange, especially through the Commission for Social Development.

35. The support that a conducive international environment and enhanced international cooperation can provide to national efforts towards promoting social integration cannot be underestimated and requires the fulfilment of commitments to internationally agreed targets and goals for official development assistance, debt relief, market access, capacity-building and technical support for developing countries. To help in capacity-building, resources could be provided for creating participatory social integration institutions, such as community-based social inclusion units responsible for the development and implementation of social integration policies. However, international assistance must not be accompanied by onerous conditionalities that restrict the policy space of the national Governments.

Investment in social protection

36. Social protection has proved to be an effective instrument for reducing the risk of social exclusion and poverty and advancing social integration. It is an essential tool for promoting more equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth; it promotes the basic tenets of social integration: social justice and intergenerational solidarity. Innovative social protection interventions should meet basic needs, facilitate productive engagement in economic activities, and expand livelihood opportunities for the excluded and most marginalized. There is a growing consensus about the need for greater universalism and inclusivity in the provision of social protection. Nevertheless, depending on the national context, targeted social protection schemes can be effective in the fight against poverty and inequality. As such, conditional cash transfer initiatives, including Bolsa Familia in Brazil, Oportunidades in Mexico or Solidario in Chile, which target families living in poverty, have resulted in improved outcomes for children, including better nutrition, school attendance and reduced child labour.

37. The importance of social protection becomes even more apparent in times of economic and social crises, when meeting the basic needs of the most vulnerable helps to shelter them from the worst impact of economic instability. In fact, social protection has emerged as an important framework for reducing poverty and vulnerability during the current crises and provides an opportunity to address the shortcomings of existing social and economic systems.

38. While formulating and implementing social protection programmes and policies, due attention should be given to the promotion of the well-being of families, the first to provide education in social integration. Although the State has assumed greater responsibility for social protection, families continue to provide many social protection functions, such as caring for the young and older family members. It has been increasingly recognized that to maintain this basic social protection role, families need support. Thus, family-based cash transfers have been introduced in Latin America and several African countries in support of intergenerational care relating to HIV and AIDS. More efforts are needed in support of single-parent families raising children, who are often the most vulnerable to poverty and exclusion.

Regional initiatives

39. In its Social Agenda 2005-2010, the European Union has focused on the creation of decent jobs and equal opportunities for all as a means of achieving social inclusion. The European Parliament and the European Council designated 2010 the

European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The objectives of the Year include highlighting the concerns and needs of people living in poverty, raising public awareness about these issues and renewing the political commitment of the member States of the European Union to combat poverty and social exclusion. Special attention is given to recognizing the rights of people living in poverty and social exclusion and enabling them to live in dignity and participate in all aspects of societal life. Shared responsibility and participation through increasing the public ownership of social inclusion policies is emphasized as well. Such ownership implies that everyone is responsible for tackling poverty and that all will benefit from its eradication. The European Union is also revising its Lisbon Strategy, which will be succeeded by the Europe 2020 strategy which stresses sustainable and inclusive growth, innovation, better use of knowledge, raising participation in the labour market, encouraging the acquisition of skills, and the fight against poverty.

40. The African Common Position on Social Integration adopted by the African Union Ministers in charge of social development in October 2008, highlights the importance of promoting social integration in the African region. Social cohesion in Africa relies on universal access to education, skills development, health care, shelter, rural and urban development, environmental protection, social security, food, nutrition and water. The African Common Position calls for the reduction of political, economic and social inequalities, closing the gaps between existing exclusion and integration, creating equal opportunities, and undertaking measures at the national, regional, and international levels to achieve a more stable and safe society for all. Such measures include improving public administration and developing local structures to involve communities and civil society in the design of projects. There is also an urgent need to integrate marginalized and vulnerable groups in poverty reduction strategies and other development programmes.

41. The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) recently identified pillars of development towards formulating a social action strategic plan. The pillars include the fight against hunger, poverty and social inequalities, as well as citizenship, participation, human rights and diversity, health, education, culture and the creation of productive jobs and decent work.

B. Fifteenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development

42. Fifteen years ago the World Summit for Social Development marked a turning point in development thinking. It put forward a comprehensive framework to promote social development by placing people at the centre of development efforts, with the ultimate aim of building more inclusive, safe, stable and just societies. The three major goals of the Summit — eradication of poverty, promotion of full and productive employment, and social integration — remain the key priority areas of social development. They are critical to the attainment of all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

43. Some progress has been made over the past 15 years with regard to promoting the inclusion of, and expanded social protection for, social groups. Several group-specific mandates and instruments have been developed. New priority areas were established under the World Programme of Action for Youth (General Assembly resolutions 50/81, annex, and 62/126, annex). The Madrid International Plan of

Action on Ageing[2] recommended strategies for the inclusion of older persons into all facets of society. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex) emphasized the right of indigenous populations to promote their own development and to have a say in decisions affecting them. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex) has brought global recognition of the challenges faced by those with disabilities. All of those instruments offered guidelines on how to promote social integration by improving the situation of social groups and increasing their participation in society. Yet, while group-specific policy instruments have ensured advances on some fronts, the social inclusion of marginalized groups into wider policy initiatives and society remains a challenge.

44. Although the world is still a long way from achieving the broader commitments made at Copenhagen, the Millennium Development Goals framework has brought increased attention to poverty reduction, access to health care and education, and a focus on full employment. This has led to positive action towards more inclusive societies. Significant progress has been achieved in some areas, such as primary school enrolment and gender equality. Advancements in other areas, such as reducing poverty and inequality, and creating productive employment and decent work for all have been disappointing, due in some part to lesser attention given to promoting social integration.

45. Progress in meeting the commitments of the Summit also varies across regions of the world despite the significant importance given to the regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action. Regional strategies have been formulated within the framework of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, 2010. Regional frameworks for youth and older persons have been established as well.

46. Undeniably, the challenges to achieving social development remain daunting. The global economic and financial crisis, energy crisis, world food crisis and continuing food insecurity have had serious consequences for social development and have had a negative impact on the progress made in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The crises have also further reduced the policy space for national action.

47. In the light of the mixed progress towards the achievement of social development goals and the adverse social impacts of multiple crises, the implementation of the commitments made at the Summit becomes even more urgent and relevant than ever before.

48. The Commission for Social Development remains the key forum for coordinating international efforts to advance social development. As such, it should continue to play a crucial role in further enhancing the global dialogue on social development issues, as well as placing social integration high on the agenda for development with a view to making tangible progress towards fulfilment of the Copenhagen commitments and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

49. The high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September 2010 to review progress in the achievement of the Millennium

[2] *Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

Development Goals presents an opportunity to renew the commitment to poverty eradication, productive employment creation, and social integration. Many of the Millennium Development Goals were built on, and carry forward the thrust of, the Copenhagen Declaration and it would be difficult to achieve them without pursuing the objective of creating a society for all. The high-level plenary meeting should emphasize the importance of building a society for all that is stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just. Governments should be further encouraged to pursue socially inclusive policies. Such policies not only support pro-poor growth and development but also help to prevent social conflict and political instability, creating favourable conditions for development and the achievement of the Goals.

C. Social consequences of the financial and economic crises and policy responses

50. With major declines in gross domestic product in both developed and developing countries, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat estimates that, in 2009, between 47 and 84 million more people remained poor or fell into poverty than would have been the case if the crisis had not hit.[3] Estimates of the impact of the crisis on child health and mortality are diverse, but they all point to a significant increase in the number of children dying.[4] Hunger is also rising across the developing world. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the number of people suffering from malnutrition is expected to reach a historical peak of 1 billion in 2009.[5]

51. The crisis has led to sharp falls in employment and rapid increases in unemployment. The effects on unemployment showed much variance across countries; however, the number of unemployed people worldwide rose by over 34 million. In addition, International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates show the number of working poor to have increased by 215 million.[6] Joblessness is likely to continue well into the next decade despite initial signs of recovery. Depending on the scope of policies to counteract the job shortfall, from four to five years might be

[3] The estimates represent the shortfall in poverty reduction caused by the drop in per capita income growth in 2009 as compared to average growth during the period 2004-2007 (which would lead to an increase of 84 million in the number of poor) and to growth observed in 2008 (which would lead to an increase of 47 million poor). For calculation purposes, it was assumed that income distribution would stay constant in all countries (see *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2010* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.C.2)). According to World Bank estimates, the reverberation of the crisis could reduce developing country growth by between 0.2 and 0.7 per cent for five to seven years; as a result, by 2020, the number of people living in poverty could increase by as much as 79 million (see World Bank, *Global Economic Prospects Summer 2010: Fiscal Headwinds and Recovery* (Washington, D.C., 2010)).

[4] One estimate suggests that the crisis will result in an additional 200,000 to 400,000 infant deaths per year between 2009 and 2015 (see World Bank, "The impact of the financial crisis on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in human development", World Bank Internal Policy Note, 2009). In sub-Saharan Africa, the number of additional infant deaths is estimated at between 30,000 and 50,000 in 2009 (see Jed Friedman and Norbert Schady, "How many more infants are likely to die in Africa as a result of the global financial crisis?", World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 5023, August 2009).

[5] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2009* (Rome, 2009).

[6] International Labour Organization, *Global Employment Trends*, January 2010 (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2010).

needed before labour market conditions similar to the pre-crisis situation are re-established.[7]

52. The impact of global crises has been further compounded by increases in food prices and falls in remittances, often used to obtain better nutrition. Although world food prices are now lower after peaking in 2008, they are still higher than before, resulting in families having to make cuts in nourishment. The negative consequences of such cuts on children's health may well extend into the future.

53. Disadvantaged social groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, older people, indigenous peoples and migrants have been hit particularly hard by the crises. A significant increase in unemployment remains a major concern given that exclusion from the labour market is detrimental to individuals and has long-term negative effects on society as a whole. This reality is especially striking for young people. Prior to the crisis, young people were already 2.8 times more likely to be unemployed than adults. Between 2008 and 2009, the number of unemployed youth increased by 8.5 million, the greatest year-on-year increase in at least 10 years. In addition, young people are becoming increasingly discouraged, showing the greatest decrease in participation rates across age groups.[8]

54. The impact of the crises on women is of major concern as women are experiencing high levels of unemployment, even higher than men in many export-oriented developing countries. Moreover, compared to their male counterparts, a higher percentage of women work in vulnerable employment, which is less covered by social safety nets and is more vulnerable to economic downturns. In the household, women often bear the brunt of a crisis and the consequent cutbacks in household budgets and consumption as they shoulder the burdens of increased unpaid housework. Reductions in social spending also tend to disproportionately affect the access of women and girls to health and education. Moreover, the design and delivery of economic stimulus packages have not always taken into account the differentiated impact of these programmes on women. That is why gender equality in the labour market should be a priority for Governments and why domestic laws and regulations need to be strengthened to ensure the access of women to jobs, equal pay, family support policies and female entrepreneurship.

55. The crises have also led to higher demand for social services and assistance, but with the decline in government revenues, public expenditure on social protection faces tight budget constraints. This is likely to result in increasing inequality, as the impacts of the crisis and cuts in public expenditure would disproportionately affect disadvantaged social groups and the low-income population, in particular women. Their situation requires immediate attention, especially in providing access to employment, education and social security benefits.

56. To compound the effects of the global crises, the world is also facing climate change risks. Renewable energy solutions are needed to mitigate climate change and to create a sustainable development pathway. In this regard, relying on markets alone is unlikely to bring the necessary change, and a public investment-led approach to address climate change, employment creation and infrastructure development should be pursued.

---

[7] *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2010: Update as of mid-2010.* Available from www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp2010files/wesp10update.pdf (accessed on 30 July 2010).

[8] International Labour Organization, 2010.

National policy responses

57. In response to the crises, developed countries have put together financial rescue packages, eased monetary policies and initiated fiscal measures to stimulate demand and address employment and social protection concerns. Most countries have focused on employment preservation and adopted countercyclical policies to prevent steep output declines that would lead to severe job losses. Some developing countries also took steps to counter the impact of the global financial and economic crisis, including measures to strengthen social protection systems to prevent poverty and to stabilize consumption.

58. While large economies and countries with fiscal resources have taken fiscal stimulus measures, poor economies in need of such steps to create jobs and protect the poor were not able to do so due to budgetary constraints or lack of policy space. A much more coordinated economic recovery would have resulted in benefits for all countries, including the least developed. To compound the situation, international assistance has been limited and is often accompanied by conditionalities that are procyclical in nature, thereby undermining recovery efforts.[9]

59. Developing countries, based on their available resources, also implemented a set of crisis response strategies. Many countries took measures to ease the burden on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups through increased spending on social safety net programmes. Some countries provided job and skills training and job placement programmes to unemployed persons and laid-off employees. Other measures included subsidizing the price of basic food, protecting wages in some sectors, and improving access to education and health services. Several countries adopted fiscal stimulus measures to create jobs through investment in infrastructure projects, and expanded the coverage of their anti-poverty programmes.

60. It is clear that the composition of stimulus packages should be designed to spread the benefits to the most vulnerable. In order to effectively deal with current and future crises, there is a need to invest in physical infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, education, health and social sectors.

61. Finally, to address the negative impact of crises, there is principally a need for a systemic reform agenda which will ensure macrofinancial stability with countercyclical macroeconomic policies and prudential risk management, including capital controls. It is equally important to promote growth that focuses on output and employment creation and ensures an inclusive financial system.

United Nations system-wide response

62. New international frameworks and initiatives have emerged in response to the global crises. In 2009, the United Nations System Chief Executive Board for Coordination endorsed a comprehensive framework consisting of nine joint crisis initiatives covering issues ranging from food security and a greener economy to the Global Jobs Pact, and a social protection floor.

---

[9] A recent study by the United Nations Children's Fund found that in 57 of the 86 countries reviewed, the International Monetary Fund had recommended contractions in total public expenditure, as well as in crucial social expenditure (United Nations Children's Fund, "Prioritizing expenditures for a recovery with human face", Social and Economic Policy Working Briefs, April 2010).

63. The Global Jobs Pact is founded on the four cross-cutting pillars of employment, social protection, labour standards and social dialogue. It focuses on boosting employment, production and investment and the promotion of decent work for all. Further, it highlights that recovery packages should consider the gender dimension of the economic crisis and integrate gender equality into all response measures.

64. The Social Protection Floor initiative aims to ensure access to basic social services and the empowerment and protection of the poor and vulnerable. This initiative is important not only for human dignity but for human resources development, economic growth, labour market efficiency, poverty reduction and building social cohesion. It would make a significant contribution to facilitating social integration by helping to lift people out of extreme poverty. Governments should commit themselves to establishing a social protection floor consisting of a set of core components, including education, health care, basic services and social transfers, to protect people during the crisis and thereafter.

65. The global financial and economic crises, volatile food and energy prices, and climate change pose serious challenges for social development and highlight the importance of social integration and its role in promoting a more integrated, comprehensive, consistent and more inclusive approach to development. There is a growing recognition that socially and environmentally sustainable policies are needed to promote social justice, economic recovery and growth with an overall objective of creating "a society for all".

III. Conclusions and recommendations

66. **The main tenets of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, to put people at the centre of development and to create a society for all, remain as valid as they were 15 years ago. The policies to achieve the three pillars of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full employment and social integration, are intertwined and mutually supportive and should be implemented in parallel. Strategies to eradicate poverty and promote full and productive employment and decent work for all lie at the core of social integration.**

67. **Social integration is critical to combating poverty and unemployment, reducing inequality and vulnerability and to creating a society for all, which is an essential condition for sustainable economic growth and development.**

68. **Comprehensive efforts are needed to enable more integrated approaches to advance inclusive development. Policies to promote social integration should include measures aimed at a more equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth and better access to universal basic services. Social integration strategies need to embrace the human rights framework, with a particular focus on anti-discrimination policies and measures to promote the broad-based participation of all citizens.**

69. **The engagement of multiple stakeholders, especially of civil society, is crucial for fostering social integration, as it directly promotes the active participation of all members of society and enhances the transparency and accountability of the process.**

70. **In the light of the global financial and economic crisis, the social dimension of the development agenda has taken on a new urgency. The numbers of poor, working poor and unemployed have risen. As such, the crises highlighted in particular the need to develop or expand social protection systems which are key to reducing poverty and inequality, preventing unemployment, achieving social justice and protecting the most vulnerable people.**

71. **Based on the foregoing, the General Assembly may wish to consider the following key recommendations at the national level:**

(a) **Governments should renew their commitments to inclusive social development and to creating a society for all, and keep those commitments at the centre of policy decision-making by adopting socially inclusive policies;**

(b) **Governments should establish effective participatory mechanisms to increase the participation of citizens and communities, in particular the marginalized or excluded, in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of all national development strategies and policies;**

(c) **Governments should give highest priority to addressing the social impacts of the crises. Policy responses to the crises, including fiscal stimulus packages, need to maintain a focus on or shift emphasis to employment creation and ensure that the benefits reach the most affected groups, such as youth and the elderly. Policies should also continue to ensure the protection of core social spending on health and education as the fallout from the crisis lingers on;**

(d) **In particular, Governments which have not yet done so should carve out the fiscal space necessary to develop or extend systems of social protection and commit to establishing a social protection floor consisting of a set of core components, including education, health care, basic services and social transfers;**

(e) **Governments should develop national evaluation frameworks for social development, including possible benchmarks and indicators to measure social integration and the well-being of the population.**

72. **Socially inclusive strategies need to be supported at the international level; recommendations may include the following:**

(a) **Member States and the United Nations system should give priority to the establishment of a social protection floor as an effective tool for social integration;**

(b) **Member States, the United Nations system and other partners should exchange good policies and practices for mainstreaming social integration in social and economic policies at the national, regional and international levels;**

(c) **The United Nations system should provide support to national efforts to achieve inclusive social development, particularly by fostering social integration at the national, regional and international levels, in a coherent and coordinated manner;**

(d) **Donors and international financial institutions should provide debt relief, concessionary aid and grants to support national efforts to enhance fiscal space, in particular that of the poorer and the least developed countries;**

(e) Donors and international financial institutions should not impose onerous conditionalities that restrict the policy space of national Governments, in particular in the area of social expenditure and programmes.